



■ Lifestyle / D1

2bU does shopping for you: Over 100 gift ideas

■ News / A2

Citigroup not impressed with fiscal reforms

■ Metro / A23

Quick response foils bank rob; 3 suspects die

■ Entertainment / A2-1

Pinoy pirates aboard in new Bill Murray film

Tanong ng Bayan / A16

Buwis sa yosi at alak, dapat bang taasan?

Win a 21" TV. Text 2910, watch INQ TV



Human rights champion William Chua dies; 49

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WILLIAM Chua, human rights lawyer and anti-martial law activist, counsel for frightened and little-known bumble folk as well as for cases of national concern, died Monday night after a six-month bout with pancreatic cancer. He was 49.

HUMAN/A6



No break, no solicitation, no Christmas party for cops

By Christian V. Esguerra

NO VACATION, no solicitation and no Christmas party. Anyone would think these directives had come from Ebenezer Scrooge.

NO BREAK/A6



web site: www.inq7.net

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, December 15, 2004 *** 96 pages / 11 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 7

P18

RP united in mourning

The lowly, mighty hail man who'd be president

HE WAS not even a martyr for democracy but the outpouring of grief from across the land over the death of Fernando Poe Jr. came like a river.

By some accounts, not since opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino was murdered on the Manila airport tarmac upon his return from exile in August 1983 to challenge a dictator has there been such a massive expression of popular grief as that which came in the wake of FPJ's death from a stroke early yesterday.

And he was just a movie actor, a high school dropout, a political novice who failed in his bid for the presidency, though he nearly unseated the incumbent.

In Poe's hometown of San Carlos City in Pangasinan, residents began tying black ribbons around trees and lampposts. In a Manila suburb, a small restaurant owner closed her eatery so she could go to the chapel where the actor's remains were to be brought for viewing.

Up north, Cordillera leaders will butcher pigs today to ask Poe's spirit to protect them from bad luck.

In Dasmariñas, Cavite, a mother of three, Mercy Ramallosa, stayed up all night listening to news on the radio about the death of Poe.

"I did not notice that there

RP MOURNS/A22

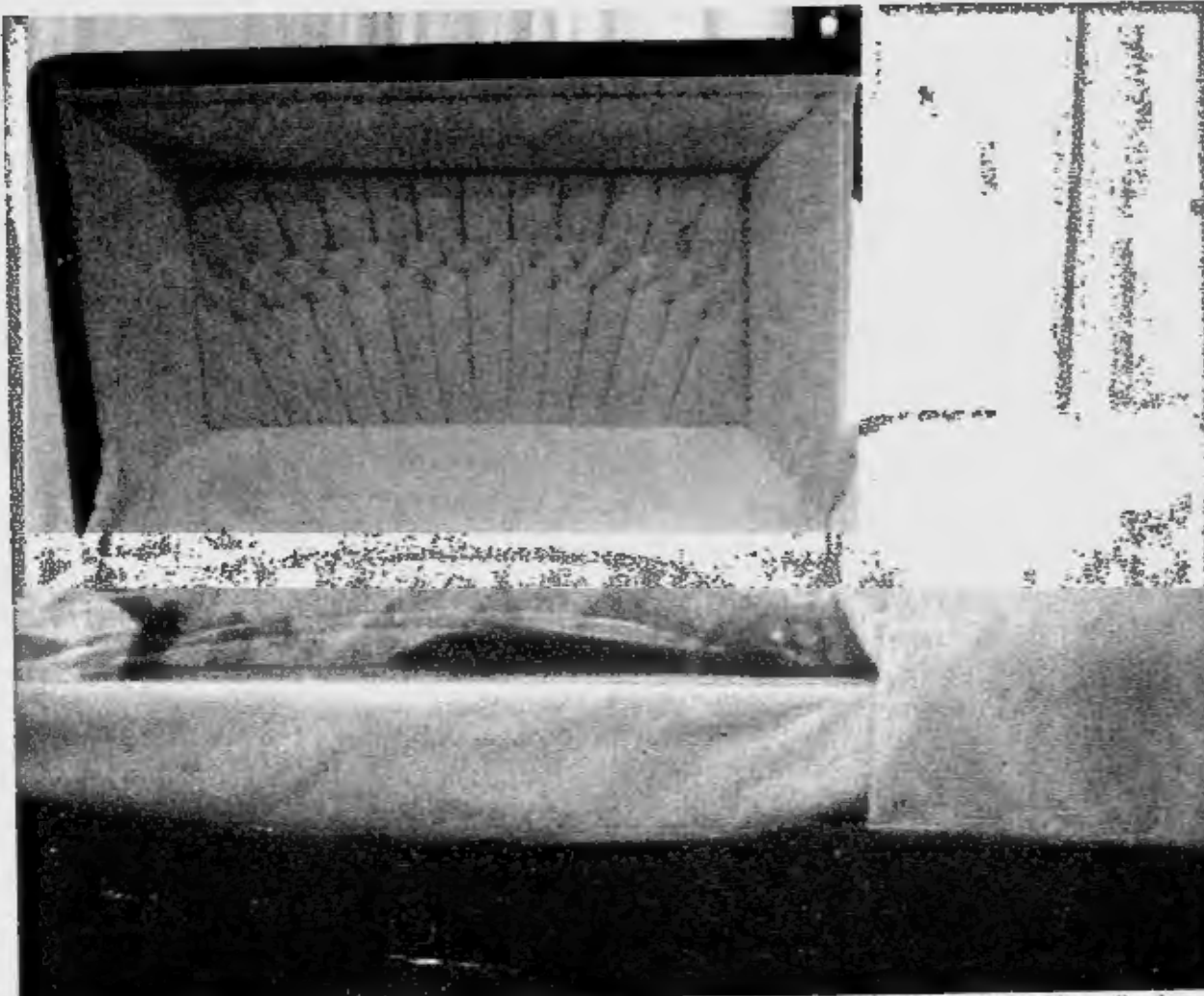
GMA wreath torched by Poe diehards

By Fe Zamora, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Labog-Javeliana

THEY not only did not want to see her at the wake of their idol Fernando Poe Jr., they also ripped apart the funeral wreath she had sent for him.

Angry supporters of the late movie idol stomped on the wreath of white blossoms that President Macapagal-Arroyo had sent to Sto. Domingo Church where Poe's remains were to be brought later last night. They also set on fire the ribbon bearing her name and whatever was left of

GMA/A21

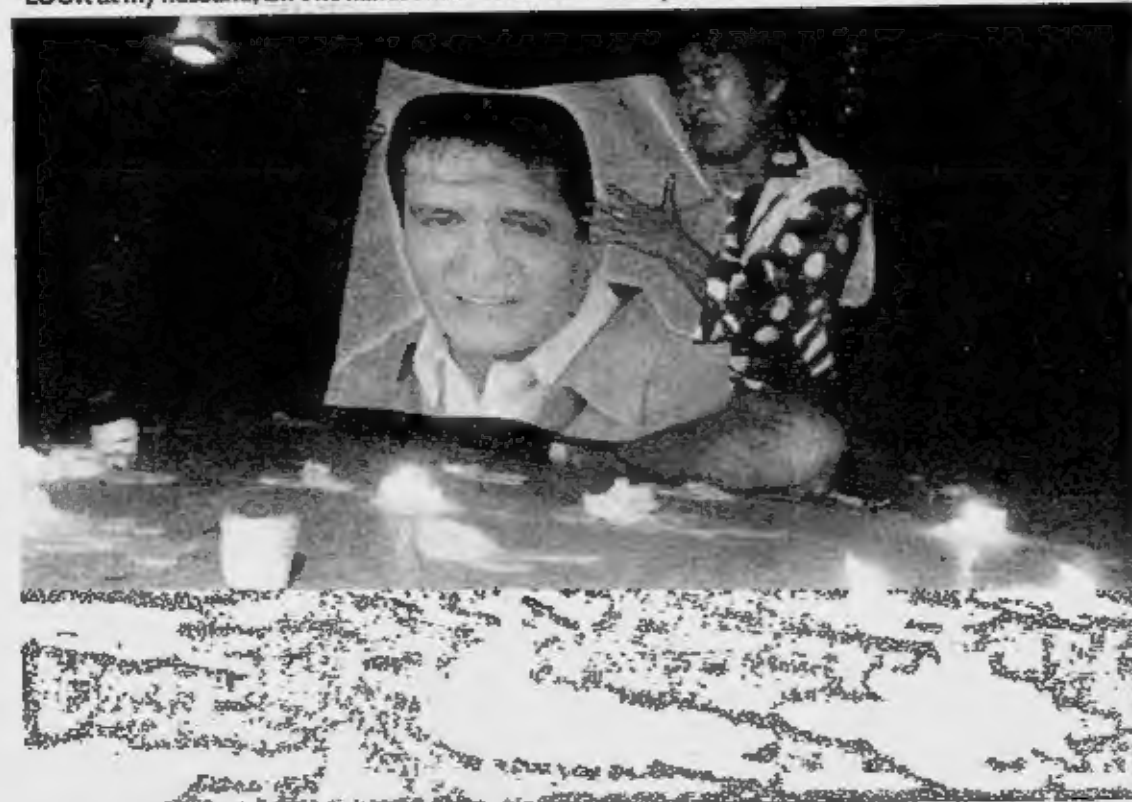


"LOOK at my husband, isn't he handsome?" He is movie-idol perfect in black suit and blue tie with white polka dots.



THE AMAZING Susan Roces was a calming presence as she stayed composed while her husband lay dying, said witnesses inside the hospital's ICU. But she couldn't help the tears and the incredible sadness.

REM ZAYORA



ALL BURNED out with grief is this woman who kept a two-day vigil on the grounds of St. Luke's Medical Center on learning her idol was gone.

JOAN BONDOC



RUSHING to be at her father's bedside, Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares arrives at the airport at 11:30 p.m. Monday from Los Angeles with her 6-month-old daughter. The doctors said that FPJ died at 12:01.

Susan tells fans: You are all part of our lives

By Ruth L. Navarra

"I REMEMBER what Ronnie once told me," Susan Roces told a press conference at the Arlington East funeral parlor in San Miguel, Pasig City, referring to her husband by his nickname. "He said, 'In the most significant moments of our lives, you are a part.' I can't hold back my tears looking at all these microphones now."

Tearful but composed, the actress widow of Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday acknowledged that "Ang Panday," the blacksmith beloved of all Fernando Poe Jr. fans, was gone.

"Wala na pa si Panday," she said.

She said her family was filled with mixed emotions—sad because her husband was gone, but thankful for the outpouring of support and love.

The actress said it was not too long ago when Poe, beside her, had announced his intention to seek the presidency.

"I also remember when we were married and all of you were there with us. You have been part

SUSAN/A21

ONE-MAN INDUSTRY

'Ang Alamat' now a true indisputable legend

By Emmie G. Velarde
Assistant Entertainment Editor

A WHOLE GENERATION of moviegoers believed that, when it came time for him to depart, he'd ride off

into the sunset on one of his prized horses, unhurried and quietly smiling, having exacted the justice he had sought for whatever terrible wrong had been done to him.

Instead, the hero who had worn many hats and gone by many names onscreen and off—each one

a necessary component of the all-encompassing "Da King"—was felled by an invisible foe that was *tahimik ngunit mapanganib* (quiet but lethal) like one of his many memorable movie personas.

Fernando "Ronnie" Poe Jr. has

passed on. He rests in peace now, a state that doesn't seem to be an immediate prospect for grief-stricken family and friends, devoted fans, adoring co-workers in the movie industry, and rabid po-

ANG ALAMAT/A22



GOTCHAI

One of 12 bank robbers (above) lies cornered inside a warehouse by the rapid and award-winning response of the Valenzuela police. The pursuit goes on (at left) after the Banco de Oro robbery at Paso de Blas, Valenzuela, Bulacan. (Story in Metro, Page A23.)

LEILA MANZOS

FPJ election protest lives on, say lawyers

By Philip C. Tuleza and Michael Lim Ubac

LEGAL eagles agree: "Da King" is dead but his election protest lives on.

Sibio Brillantes Jr., the lawyer of Fernando Poe Jr., yesterday said the actor's legal challenge to President Macapagal-Arroyo could still proceed despite his death.

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez also said an election

protest did not cease with the death of the losing candidate, thus correcting allies of Ms. Arroyo who had said that the case was rendered moot by the death of her political rival.

Brillantes said former Sen. Loren Legarda, Poe's running mate, could "substitute" as the complainant behind the protest pending before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET). "Loren will continue the fight. It has to

FPJ ELECTION/A20



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent over Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY REYESA, FOR RESEARCH/12/15/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer.news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Manila	Partly Cloudy	Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Batavia	Partly Cloudy	Bohol	Partly Cloudy
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo	Partly Cloudy	Marikina	Partly Cloudy
Quezon	Partly Cloudy	San Jose	Partly Cloudy
Taguig	Partly Cloudy	Valenzuela	Partly Cloudy
Alabang	Partly Cloudy	Antipolo	Partly Cloudy
Calabarzon	Partly Cloudy	Las Vegas	Partly Cloudy
General Santos	Partly Cloudy	General Santos	Partly Cloudy
General Santos	Partly Cloudy	General Santos	Partly Cloudy

Citigroup unimpressed by reforms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UNITED States banking giant Citigroup remains unimpressed by the gains made by the Arroyo administration in trimming the budget deficit, saying these had been achieved largely by cutting down on vital spending rather than increasing revenues.

In its weekly review of Asian economies dated Dec. 2, Citigroup noted the "sharp reduction in the October fiscal gap but it should be regarded as a positive one-off."

The government proudly reported a P5.8-billion budget

deficit in October, against the P23.8-billion estimate, which kept the budget deficit in the first 10 months at P147.7 billion, significantly lower than Citigroup's estimate of P165 billion.

But Citigroup did not share the

government's enthusiasm.

"Much of the sharp fiscal gains in October came by way of expenditure compression. We've seen this in 2001 only for expenditures to recoil back up in 2002 leading to massive slippage, and accelerated government borrowings," the report said.

Citigroup noted that non-interest expenditures have contracted by 26.5 percent in October and government spending outside its loan payments has increased by only 3.1 per-

cent in the first 10 months this year.

"This is consistent with our view that government plans to suppress the non-interest side of the budget in the post-election or second half of 2004 with emphasis on capital outlays," Citigroup said.

Streamlined expenditures

Citigroup said the streamlined expenditures should be accompanied by significant revenue gains to ensure that the budget deficit remains at man-

ageable levels.

It noted that the government has yet to make "fundamental adjustments" in terms of revenue collections because Congress, despite being dominated by the President's allies, has not passed a single tax measure.

Congress' dillydallying on the President's tax package has forced Malacañang to resort to revenue-raising measures through executive fiat, such as the increase in oil tariffs from three percent to five percent

next month.

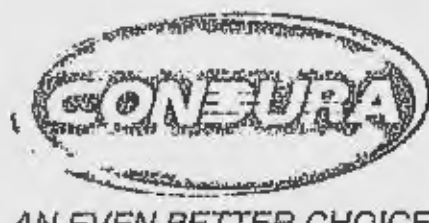
"The increase in the oil import tax (which would raise around P5.58 billion) reflects growing frustration in the lack of revenue measures being pushed through Congress," Citigroup said.

Without any new revenue measures, credit-risk agencies would be justified in their view that the government was not serious in solving its fiscal crisis and that the country has become a bigger credit risk deserving of a credit downgrade.

WITH THE INCREASE IN POWER RATES
OWNING A CONDURA...

...IS LIKE HAVING YOUR CAKE
AND EATING IT TOO.

YOU CAN ENJOY COOL COMFORT WITHOUT HAVING TO ENDURE THE RISING COST OF ELECTRICITY. Because the Condura Aircon with a higher Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) and the unique Energy Saving Plug (ESP) saves up to 40% in electrical consumption, you need not settle for cheap brands. With Condura Aircon, the more you enjoy the comfort, the more you save.



AN EVEN BETTER CHOICE

Vendors' feud
eyed in deadly
GenSan blast

By Christian V. Esquiverra

RIVALRIES between Christian and Muslim vendors were most likely to blame for the weekend blast at the General Santos City market which killed 14 people, though police and military officials said they had not ruled out terrorist activity.

Philippine National Police Chief Edgar Aglipay said authorities had a "good lead, it's not a blank wall anymore," but refused to give further details so as not to prejudice the investigation.

Investigators are focusing on the theory that the bombing was related to a feud between two groups fighting for control of the market, Aglipay said.

"We are not discounting that terrorists were behind the attack in General Santos City and we are investigating all angles here as to the motive of the perpetrators," said Aglipay, who flew to the city to investigate the explosion.

Local police raided the house of a Muslim vendor but did not find him there, said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, Armed Forces information officer.

Four days ago, Pascual said the vendor had threatened to burn the General Santos public market after he was allegedly beaten up by Christian vendors.

The way the bomb was planted also boosted the police and military theory. It was left on top of the metal cover of a stall belonging to the president of the Christian vendors' association, Pascual said.

A fragment of the bomb indicated that it was a blue metal-covered and rocket-propelled grenade attached to a timing device.

"It was placed there so it seems that the lead pertaining to the Muslim-Christian conflict is indeed strong," Pascual said in Filipino.

Supt. Willie Dangan, the city police chief, has said "we are looking into the angle that there is a misunderstanding in the business sector of the public market."

Rival groups

Recent reports have said that two rival groups have been quarreling for control of the market and had almost exchanged gunfire in one incident.

If the blast was indeed the handiwork of a disgruntled vendor, Aglipay said it was still possible that the vendor might also have hired "someone who had the capability to carry out such an attack."

That's why authorities are looking into the possibility that a member of a Moro Islamic Liberation Front "lost command" or even the Abu Sayyaf had been tapped by disgruntled vendors for the job, Aglipay said.

"We're exploring all angles. We're still not discounting the terrorism angle or the possibility that the attack was a form of retaliation by the group of slain MILF man Jack Andapuan," he said.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday vowed to arrest the perpetrators of the General Santos blast.

"This cowardly attack on innocent civilians will not go unpunished," Reyes said in a statement.

He said he had "directed local government and police authorities to speed up their investigation of the incident to identify the bombers and their motives."

Reyes refused to speculate who were behind the attack, saying that he would "rather wait for the result of the investigation" as he urged the public to help the authorities in their investigation.

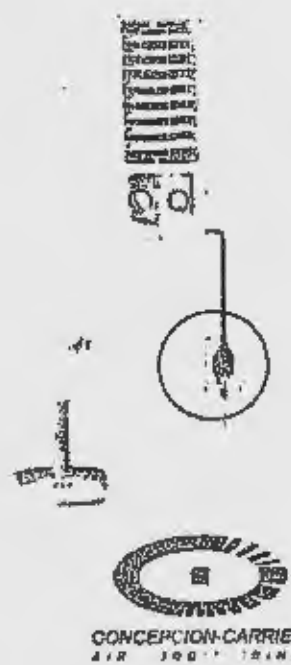
Local police authorities earlier said terrorists were behind the blast, citing recent threats.

Mindanao has been rocked by bombing attacks in recent years allegedly carried out by Muslim extremists with ties to foreign terror groups.

The homemade bomb, consisting of TNT packed with pieces of metal, ripped through the public market of the city of half a million people on Sunday afternoon, killing 14 and wounding 70 others.

General Santos, one of the biggest cities in Mindanao, has been troubled by decades of Muslim separatist rebellion as well as Islamic militants.

A similar blast blamed on Islamic militants left several people dead at a shopping mall in April 2001. With reports from Nelson Flores, Edison C. Tandoc Jr. and AFP



Don't shoot at GIs on relief mission, NPA urged

By TJ Burgonio

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday asked local communist rebels not to fire on the American troops helping in relief operations in the typhoon-ravaged provinces of Luzon.

Romulo said the rebels should "forget" their ideological differences with the government amid efforts by both public and private agencies, as well as foreign countries, to provide relief for the storm victims.

"This is a time that we should forget any differences that we have and concentrate on our efforts, first, to save our countrymen and try to give them aid," he told reporters in a chance interview at the DFA.

"Second, [let's] help provide them with their needs like clothing and food, medicine, shelter. Maybe after these [relief operations], we can be political again," he said.

NPA warning

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the New People's Army, had warned the US troops not to conduct military operations but to merely provide humanitarian aid, or face attack.

"It would be wise for the American troops to refrain from undertaking military operations in the area including intelligence-related activities," Rosal said in a statement.

"They are dangerously close to NPA guerrilla zones, and it would be prudent for them to confine themselves to areas where actual relief operations are underway in order to avoid unnecessary encounters," he added.

Over 600 troops from US bases in the Asia-Pacific region are in the country "to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief" for the victims.

Hundreds of thousands were displaced in the aftermath of four storms that battered the country in the past weeks.

As of last week, the Department of Foreign Affairs had received a total of \$3.1 million in emergency assistance from foreign countries, international agencies and non-government organizations.

On top of the disaster funds, foreign countries also dispatched teams of doctors and relief workers to the devastated areas.

\$7-M relief

So far, the relief mission being conducted by the United States military in Luzon has cost the US Department of Defense at least \$7 million, Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. Kenneth Glueck, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, said the humanitarian mission, the first undertaken by the US military in the Philippines since the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and the closure of the American bases in 1991, involved more than 900 troops, 18 aircraft and one ship.

Ricciardone said the five-day mission, which started Sunday at Clark air base in Pampanga, a former American facility, was one of the largest the US had conducted with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

On top of the amount that covered expenditures for fuel, equipment and personnel, Americans donated \$500,000, Ricciardone said.

US helicopters have made eight flights daily, distributing 37,653 kg of goods to Naka and Real in Quezon and Baler and San Luis in Aurora as of Monday, according to a report from the Base Disaster Response Coordinating Center.

The center, based at the Haribon Complex south of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here, is programmed to ferry 80,634 kg of goods, said Florita Villar, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Ricciardone said the "revived and revitalized" relationship between the US and the Philippines made these combined relief missions possible.

"There's nothing like being at war together on the global war on terrorism to see how that alliance, the exercises we do all the time and have done for some years, pays off for us," he said. "This is just one more example of how the relationship matters to both our countries."

With Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

It's not just a Credit Card



It's enjoying 0% interest on ALL items* this Christmas.



Now available at:

ABENSON

*0% interest is available under the 3-month tenure for a minimum single or accumulated receipt of P3,000 from Nov. 13, 2004 to Jan. 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2877, Series of 2004. 0% interest is also available on wide selections under the 6, 9, 12 and 18-month tenors from Nov. 9, 2004 to Dec. 31, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2876, Series of 2004.

Double your chances of winning in the Citibank Preferred Brands Raffle Promo when you PayLite your purchases at Abenson, Electroworld, Home Plus and Avant.

PayLite



citibank

Geologist urges gov't to draw up hazard map

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Geologist Raymundo Punongbayan urged the government to produce hazard maps of areas prone to flash floods to prevent a repeat of the landslides that killed more than 1,000 people in Nueva Ecija, Aurora and Quezon provinces recently.

Punongbayan, the former chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said few such maps exist because flash floods were still "ill-understood and unappreciated" in the Philippines.

In a related development, press reports said the Netherlands has terminated a P574-million grant to save the northern Sierra Madre mountain range from illegal logging due to a lack of support from both national and local officials.

The decision was made earlier this month following the storms that lashed Luzon, causing flash floods and destroying towns and villages and covering thousands of hectares in thick mud.

Much of the damage was attributed to illegal logging in the Sierra Madre where soil, boulders and logs were washed down the sides of mountains by torrents of water destroying anything in its path.

Punongbayan described a flash flood as the "sudden onrush down a river valley of an unusually large volume of water, usually carrying a lot of sediments and floating debris, mostly trees and plants, and deposits its load at the valley mouth."

"Flash floods commonly occur during long duration heavy rains that induce landslides whose deposits can form dams across constricted segments of river valley and impound runoff and river water upstream," he said.

While flash floods are regular occurrences in the country, there has been "no effort on the part of the government here and elsewhere in the world to pursue the generation and production of flash flood hazard maps," he said.

He said there were some small areas that have been mapped but not many of these maps were based on "good science."

Punongbayan said it was important for government to produce the maps because people "have settled in river deltas, alluvial fans and valley floors."

These areas are where the affected residents in Nueva Ecija, Aurora and Quezon have settled. Located east of Luzon, these straddle the Sierra Madre mountain ranges and face the Pacific Ocean.

Historically, communities grew outward from and along major rivers, making them highly vulnerable to floods and flash floods, Punongbayan said.

Villages in the foothills of deep slopes and tall mountains face real risks, he said.

But he said the phenomenon of flash floods was only vaguely understood by decision-makers and planners who tend to advance whatever reasons are most convenient for why they occur.

These reasons include illegal logging, slash-and-burn farming, erosive winds, forest denudation and erosion, geologic faults, too much rain and waterspout.

Punongbayan said producing hazard maps was not an expensive undertaking. For starters, geologists could initially provide the maps and aerial photographs, he said. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with AFP

It's Okay To Be Chubby At Age 5. Not At Age 12.



It's easy for any parent not to worry about excess fat problem on a chubby, happy kid. But time flies, suddenly that same fat kid is a young teenager heading into its formative years - and now the problem is serious. Being overweight can inhibit social behavior, learning abilities, mental well-being and the development of brain power. Once a child starts putting on weight, it's difficult to stop. Adults have difficulty with self-control when it comes to over-eating, but kids have none! Many parents find they can't handle the problem without professional help.

Call Young Slimmers at Marie France Bodyline now for a no cost, no obligation consultation. We have the technology and know-how to help your child attain a good-looking, slim and healthy shape. Find out how children can lose fat without starving diets, just a natural body process. Put your kid on the right track for a long, happy and healthy life. Call Young Slimmers today.

Young Slimmers
at
Marie France Bodyline

CALL 894-BODY (2639)

BEST FOR EASY FAT LOSS

MANILA
15/F GT Tower

ORTIGAS
36/F Robinsons
Equitable Tower

TIMOG
3/F Cedar
Exec. Bldg.

BINONDO
Unit 0-1 City
Plaza Tower

ALABANG
3/F Citibank-Frabelle
Bldg.

SHAW
2/F Sunshine Square
Plaza

CONGRESSIONAL
2/F O Plaza Bldg.

PAMPANGA
TEL: 961-2981
3/F Dan's Mktg. Bldg.

CEBU
TEL: 233-7637
Unit 1203 Keppel Centre

CONGRATULATIONS
to
JONATHAN C. SY

for winning an

Islands
Souvenirs
CART FRANCHISE

on the Globe Prepaid Sony Ericsson T230 Promo



Sony Ericsson

making great things possible

Globe

HANDYPHONE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2448, Series of 2004.

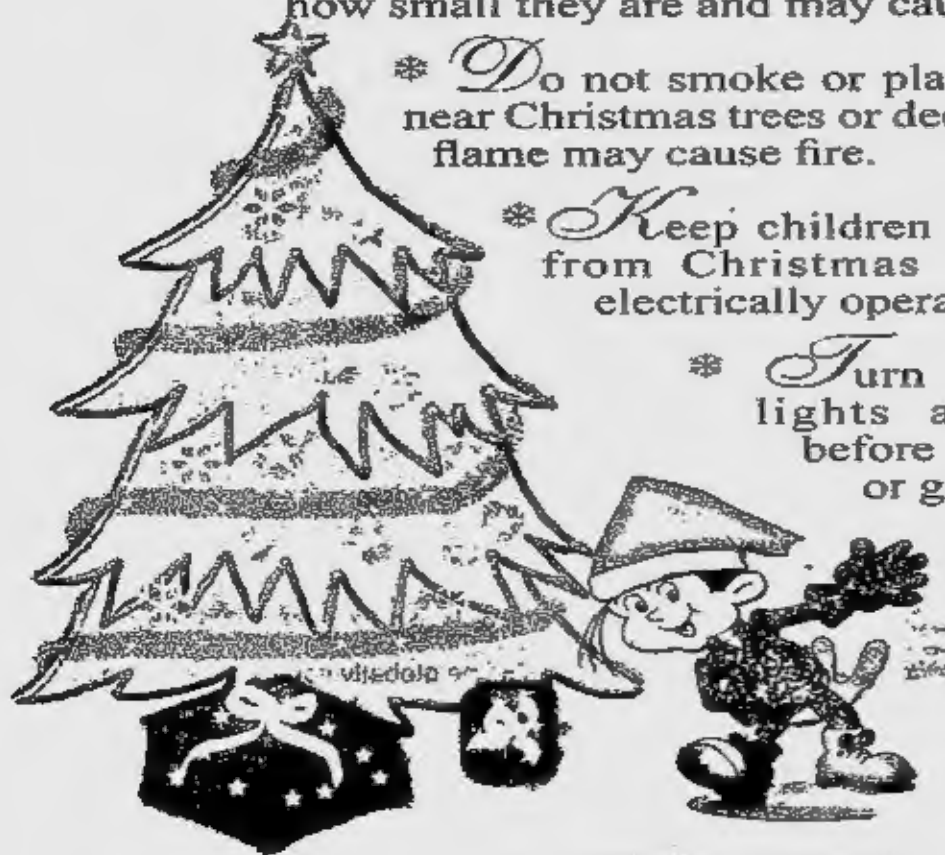
Enjoy safe & happy holidays!

- * Only use lights and electrical decorations approved by the Bureau of Product Standards.
- * Do not overload wall outlets and extension cords. Any excess load might result in heating which could cause fire.
- * Check new and old sets of Christmas lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or cracked wires and loose connections. Discard damaged sets. Also, check if all lights are securely fastened.
- * Only use lights and decors designated for outdoor use outside your office and home.
- * Always unplug Christmas lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- * Do not install electrical lights on metallic Christmas trees.
- * Keep all combustible materials like curtains and carpets away from electric light sources. All incandescent light sources produce heat no matter how small they are and may cause fire.

* Do not smoke or place lighted candles near Christmas trees or decorations. An open flame may cause fire.

* Keep children at a safe distance from Christmas lights and other electrically operated decorations.

* Turn off all Christmas lights and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.



MERALCO
may liwanag ang buhay

In coordination with the BFP - NCR



Bureau of Fire Protection



Certified Product Quality

Gov't rules out Tarongoy rescue

By TJ Burgenio

THE PHILIPPINE government has ruled out the use of military force to rescue Filipino hostage Robert Tarongoy in Iraq for fear this would endanger his life, according to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday.

A team headed by Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis had been tasked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to work on the release of Tarongoy, a 31-year-old accountant who was seized by gunmen on Nov. 1 along with five other foreign nationals inside the Saudi Arabian Trading and Constructing Co. (Satco) in Mansour district in Baghdad.

The deadline set by Ms Arroyo for the team to resolve the abduction is supposed to end today, Tarongoy's 44th day in captivity.

Romulo said he was not aware of any plans by Seguis or even the Iraqi government to send a crack team to rescue Tarongoy and an American captive. The other hostages, a Nepalese and three Iraqis, had been freed.

"Like what I said, we don't want

to leave any stone unturned but we are not doing things that would jeopardize their security and safety. We are doing our best," Romulo told reporters following the opening of a photo exhibit marking the first death anniversary of the late Secretary Blas E. Ople.

Officials have kept the pressure on Tarongoy's employer to step up the negotiations to ensure that he would be freed unharmed, Romulo said.

The Philippine government, which maintains a no-ransom policy, had asked Satco to address the kidnappers' demand for a \$10-million ransom in exchange for Tarongoy's release.

"The biggest problem is that they are not releasing the hostage," Romulo said when asked about the biggest problem faced by the team of negotiators. "That's the same problem we had with Nayan; they were not releasing Nayan."

Nayan, 34, a diplomat, and two other UN poll workers were freed unharmed on Nov. 23 in Afghanistan, after 26 days in captivity.

HK to mark site of Jose Rizal home

HONG KONG—The site of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal's former residence in Hong Kong will be marked with a commemorative plaque, the government said Tuesday.

The Philippine consulate general proposed marking Rednaxela Terrace, the street where Rizal's home once stood, and Hong Kong's Antiquities Advisory Board has approved the idea, government spokesperson Addy Wong said.

Rizal's building was also known as Rednaxela Terrace, which was actually meant to be Alexander but was spelled backward by a painter, the South China Morning Post reported.

Rizal lived there with his family from December 1891 to June 1892, the consulate general said in a statement.

It said the commemorative plaque will be unveiled Dec. 30, the 108th anniversary of Rizal's execution in 1896 by the Philippines' then-Spanish rulers.

Rizal settled briefly in Hong Kong as a practicing ophthalmologist, after he was banished from the Philippines by Spanish colonizers for writing and publishing a novel that exposed the corruption of the Catholic Church in Spain.

A similar plaque already exists at the site of a Hong Kong clinic where Rizal once worked. Hong Kong has also marked a local site where the first Philippine national flag was sewn.

As of the end of 2003, Filipinos were the largest minority in Hong Kong with a population of nearly 133,000. Many of them work as maids in this wealthy territory. AP

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a photo caption in the Metro section on Page A21 inadvertently stated that the Battlefield of Zapote monument stands in Parañaque City. The monument is located at the boundary of Las Piñas City and Bacoor, Cavite.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Magsaysay Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph. Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

**This Christmas,
enjoy the
visual treat
within
your
reach**

Features: • Cable Ready • 181 Channels • On-screen Display Control • Audio/Video In • Audio/Video Out • On/Off Timer • Sleep Timer • Full Function Remote Control

PROMAC TELEVISION
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR ALL

Tobacco farmers, workers seek fair tax hike of cigarettes

THOUSANDS of tobacco farmers and cigarette factory workers rallied at the Senate on Monday to clamor for a fair increase on the taxes of cigarettes to protect local brands, local jobs and the future of their children.

More than 3,000 members of the Fortune Tobacco Corp. (FTC) Labor Union and farmer organizations from Northern Luzon appealed to senators to impose moderate tax increases on

cigarettes, particularly low-priced brands. They claimed that proposals imposing extremely high levies on low-priced cigarettes without a corresponding tax increase on high-end brands was not only unfair but would lead to less sales, reduced production and the loss of thousands of jobs.

There are 10,000 workers involved in the manufacture of low-priced cigarettes and about 65,000 tobacco farmers nation-

wide, the protesters said in a press statement. These sectors are responsible for producing low-priced cigarettes consumed by poor Filipinos. They are currently up in arms against the perceived bias for high-end cigarettes which will be spared from any tax increase in the next three years.

Larry Punzalan, secretary general of the Fortune Tobacco workers' union, said they trooped to

the Senate to air their grievances. "The Senate has been discussing this tax bill, but it seems that the workers are not being heard or consulted. Since our security of tenure and the livelihood of our members are at stake, we have a right to be heard on this issue," Punzalan said.

Farmer-leaders from the Philippine Association of Tobacco-based Cooperatives, Ilocos Sur Farmers' Association, La Union

Tobacco Farmers' Cooperative and Ilocos Farmers' Cooperative also appealed for fairness in the tax treatment of low-priced brands.

Farmer-leader Nestor Rodriguez said that if taxes on the low-priced brands were raised 400 percent, sales of low-grade tobacco leaves they produce would surely drop and result in the loss of thousands of jobs.

The farmers and workers also

raised the issue of smuggling and its adverse impact on the local cigarette industry.

"They're discussing taxes only on local cigarettes. But what about the smuggled cigarettes that go through the Duty Free outlets? Why should the poor carry the burden of increased taxes? What about the rich who patronize the smuggled and imported brands?" farmer-leader Nestor Cachola said.

Senate adopts compromise on sin taxes

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SENATE adopted last night a compromise version of the sin taxes seeking higher rates on cigarette products despite Sen. Joker Arroyo's last-minute objection to the passage of tax measures this year.

But as of press time, the final version of Senate Bill No. 1815 had yet to be formally voted on in plenary session. Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had expected majority of the nine-member opposition bloc to support the administration measure.

"Our amendments were accepted, so it's a bipartisan support," said Pimentel.

Early in the day, the two Senate blocs agreed to pass the bill to help generate revenues for the cash-strapped Arroyo administration and solve its fiscal woes.

As of 6:30 p.m., the latest version of the sin taxes was more than double the current excise tax on low-priced brands of cigarettes such as Fortune, Champion and Liberty, which are mostly consumed by poor smokers.

Once enacted, the excise tax per pack of cigarettes on low-tier brands would rise from the current P1.12 to P3 on the first year, and subsequently increase every two years (P3.27 in 2007, P3.55 in 2009, and P3.84 in 2011).

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, had wanted the increase to remain at P2.24 per pack, but upon Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's motion, the Senate decided to raise it.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Edgardo Angara expect the higher tax rate to easily generate between P15 billion to P18 billion.

The House of Representatives, under House Bill No. 3174, wants only a 20-percent increase in excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco products.

In a privilege speech Monday, Arroyo decried the undue haste by which Malacañang wanted the proposed tax measures passed by Congress.

The maverick senator accused Malacañang of dangling the threat of a credit downgrade to push Congress into passing tax measures before the Christmas break.

But House Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said that a credit downgrade is "not a joke."

"The President cannot afford to joke on our economy or even make a false assessment of our situation. This is no joking matter," Nograles said.

Recto admitted that the excise taxes and the value-added tax would be shouldered by the consumers.

Another amendment to the bill was the deletion of the tax exemptions of cigarettes and alcohol products being sold in duty-free shops to raise P5 billion in additional revenues.

Recto clarified that these products would continue to be exempted from VAT and customs duties, but not excise taxes.

The third amendment was the reduction of the excise tax on cigars from the committee report version of 20 percent of net retail price to 10 percent.

At the House of Representatives, Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte) yesterday branded Malacañang's tax program as incoherent.

Barbers said it was unfair to blame Congress for any credit downgrade by international ratings agencies "when it is the incoherent and indecisive moves of the Palace in sponsoring manifestly conflicting and haphazardly crafted bills that are leading this country straight to the slaughterhouse."

He cited the "watered-down" bill on cigarettes and alcohol products and the withdrawal of the proposed franchise tax on telecommunications companies.

He also noted the conflict between the proposed attrition bill and the tax amnesty bill.

"These incoherent actions are symptomatic of a person seriously suffering from a stroke," Barbers said. With a report from Carlito Pablo

"By switching to Globelines Broadband, we don't have to deal with frequent interruptions anymore. Big design files get to our clients around the globe without delay."

Architect Herbert Gabales
Adrianse Group

It's critical for an Interior Design and Project Management firm like the Adrianse Group to have a reliable internet connection that allows them to offer quality services and designs at par with their global counterparts.



With Globelines Broadband, they find it easier to exchange files and information with their clients in Singapore, Hongkong, Canada and the US. Because of their uninterrupted connection, they can quickly coordinate with their offices in various parts of Asia, upload websites for ongoing projects, and even surf the world wide web for potential clients, all in real time.

By availing of a Globelines Broadband business package, the Adrianse Group gets connected at the highest speeds, 24 hours a day at a very affordable price.

This just goes to show that with Globelines Broadband, flourishing businesses like the Adrianse Group can become globally competitive.

For inquiries and subscription, call our Customer Care Hotline at (02) 919-8888 in Luzon or (032) 410-8888 in Visayas & Mindanao, or visit our Globelines Payments and Services Centers listed below.

BUSINESS PACKAGES (Unlimited Usage)	Monthly Service Fee (MSF)	Speed up to	No. of Email Addresses (w/10mb each)
Extreme 384	P3,000	384 Kbps	5
Extreme 512	P5,000	512 Kbps	5
Extreme 768	P7,500	768 Kbps	5
Extreme 1mb	P10,000	1 Mbps	5

Extreme packages are applicable for single and multiple PC connections.



Gl belines
ADRIANSE GROUP and BROADBAND
INTERIOR DESIGN • PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Partners in enriching real lives in real time.

GLOBELINES PAYMENTS AND SERVICES CENTERS: ALABANG: ALABANG 1ST PLAZA Upper G/F, Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, cor. Pioneer & Modern Sts., Muntinlupa City; ALABANG 2ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 3RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 4TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 5TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 6TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 7TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 8TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 9TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 10TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 11TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 12TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 13TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 14TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 15TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 16TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 17TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 18TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 19TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 20TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 21ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 22ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 23RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 24TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 25TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 26TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 27TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 28TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 29TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 30TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 31ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 32ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 33RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 34TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 35TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 36TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 37TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 38TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 39TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 40TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 41ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 42ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 43RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 44TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 45TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 46TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 47TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 48TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 49TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 50TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 51ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 52ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 53RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 54TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 55TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 56TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 57TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 58TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 59TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 60TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 61ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 62ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 63RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 64TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 65TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 66TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 67TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 68TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 69TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 70TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 71ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 72ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 73RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 74TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 75TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 76TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 77TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 78TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 79TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 80TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 81ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 82ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 83RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 84TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 85TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 86TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 87TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 88TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 89TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 90TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 91ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 92ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 93RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 94TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 95TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 96TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 97TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 98TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 99TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 100TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 101ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 102ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 103RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 104TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 105TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 106TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 107TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 108TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 109TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 110TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 111ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 112ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 113RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 114TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 115TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 116TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 117TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 118TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 119TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 120TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 121ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 122ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 123RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 124TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 125TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 126TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 127TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 128TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 129TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 130TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 131ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 132ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 133RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 134TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 135TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 136TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 137TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 138TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 139TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 140TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 141ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 142ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 143RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 144TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 145TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 146TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 147TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 148TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 149TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 150TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 151ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 152ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 153RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 154TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 155TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 156TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 157TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 158TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 159TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 160TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 161ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 162ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 163RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 164TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 165TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 166TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 167TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 168TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 169TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 170TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 171ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 172ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 173RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 174TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 175TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 176TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 177TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 178TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 179TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 180TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 181ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 182ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 183RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 184TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 185TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 186TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 187TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 188TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 189TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 190TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 191ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 192ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 193RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 194TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 195TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 196TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 197TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 198TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 199TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 200TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 201ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 202ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 203RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 204TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 205TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 206TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 207TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 208TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 209TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 210TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 211ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 212ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 213RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 214TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 215TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 216TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 217TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 218TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 219TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 220TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 221ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 222ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 223RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 224TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 225TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 226TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 227TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 228TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 229TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 230TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 231ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 232ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 233RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 234TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 235TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 236TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 237TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 238TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 239TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 240TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 241ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 242ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 243RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 244TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 245TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 246TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 247TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 248TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 249TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 250TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 251ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 252ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 253RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 254TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 255TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 256TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 257TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 258TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 259TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 260TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 261ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 262ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 263RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 264TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 265TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 266TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 267TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 268TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 269TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 270TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 271ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 272ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 273RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 274TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 275TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 276TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 277TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 278TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 279TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 280TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 281ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 282ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 283RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 284TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 285TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 286TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 287TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 288TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 289TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 290TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 291ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 292ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 293RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 294TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 295TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 296TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 297TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 298TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 299TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 300TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 301ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 302ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 303RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 304TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 305TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 306TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 307TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 308TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 309TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 310TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 311ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 312ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 313RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 314TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 315TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 316TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 317TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 318TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 319TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 320TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 321ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 322ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 323RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 324TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 325TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 326TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 327TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 328TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 329TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 330TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 331ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 332ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 333RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 334TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 335TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 336TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 337TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 338TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 339TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 340TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 341ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 342ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 343RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 344TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 345TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 346TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 347TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 348TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 349TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 350TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 351ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 352ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 353RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 354TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 355TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 356TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 357TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 358TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 359TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 360TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 361ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 362ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 363RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 364TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 365TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 366TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 367TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 368TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 369TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 370TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 371ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 372ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 373RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 374TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 375TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 376TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 377TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 378TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 379TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 380TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 381ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 382ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 383RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 384TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 385TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 386TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 387TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 388TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 389TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 390TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 391ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 392ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 393RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 394TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 395TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 396TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 397TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 398TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 399TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 400TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 401ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 402ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 403RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 404TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 405TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 406TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 407TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 408TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 409TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 410TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 411ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 412ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 413RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 414TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 415TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 416TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 417TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 418TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 419TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 420TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 421ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 422ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 423RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 424TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 425TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 426TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 427TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 428TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 429TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 430TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 431ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 432ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 433RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 434TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 435TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 436TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 437TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 438TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 439TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 440TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 441ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 442ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 443RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 444TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 445TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 446TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 447TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 448TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 449TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 450TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 451ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 452ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 453RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 454TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 455TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 456TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 457TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 458TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 459TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 460TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 461ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 462ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 463RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 464TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 465TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 466TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 467TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 468TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 469TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 470TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 471ST A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 472ND A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 473RD A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 474TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 475TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 476TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 477TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 478TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 479TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 480TH A. Bonifacio Ave., Pasay; ALABANG 481ST A

6 coal miners trapped

SIX COAL miners were trapped after a coal mine's roof collapsed in Diphahan, Zamboanga Sibugay, a government-run oil exploration company said Tuesday.

Philippine National Oil Company Exploration Corp. said the coal development shafts had been operated in joint venture with Taiwan Overseas Mining Corp. since 1999.

The affected mine development shaft is about 56 meters deep.

PNOEC president and chief executive Eduardo Mañalac said rescue efforts were underway to save the miners.

"We have received initial reports from the site that the rescue team has already spotted two of the trapped miners about two meters away from them," Mañalac said. "The rescue team has also heard sounds from the pipes indicating the conscious presence of the other trapped miners."

It was not clear what caused the shaft's roof to collapse. AP

Misamis shabu lab busted

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GOVERNMENT has dismantled another drug laboratory, arresting two Chinese and seizing huge volumes of shabu-making equipment in an obscure town in Misamis Oriental, authorities announced yesterday.

It was the 11th shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) lab to be discovered in the country this year, according to Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon, the police anti-drugs czar.

The raid on the abandoned Mindanao International Concrete Products Manufacturing Corp. warehouse in Barangay Loguilo, Alubijid, led to the arrest of Peter Yu So and Jack Dy Chua on Monday, said Anselmo Avenida Jr., Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency director.

Seized from the lab were precursors and other chemicals used to manufacture high-grade shabu.

Among these were plastic containers of red powder, black granules, white flakes and yellowish liquid. There were also liquefied petroleum gas tanks, a weighing scale, ice buckets, a funnel and a plastic container with a small amount of power.

PDEA operatives, backed by local police, stormed the lab on the strength of a search warrant issued by a Misamis municipal court.

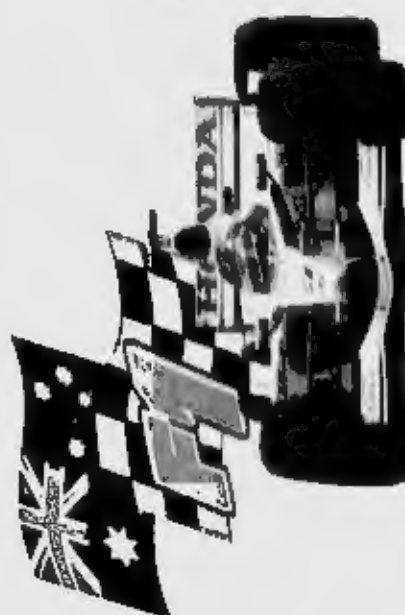
De Leon said the Misamis raid strongly indicated that drug traffickers had transferred their operations outside Metro Manila following the series of raids that dismantled several laboratories in the metropolis.

Honda Holiday Treats

2 Honda Jazz Sports Edition and 5 Trips for two to the Australian Grand Prix at stake this Christmas for all Honda car buyers



- Tail gate spoiler
- Front, rear and side lower skirt
- Fog lamp
- Door visor
- Hydrophilic paint protection



Get a chance to win one of the 5 Trips for 2 to the Australian Grand Prix 2005.

Promo mechanics
Each purchase of a Honda vehicle corresponds to the number of coupons the customer gets:

Honda City	2 coupons
Honda Jazz	3 coupons
Honda Civic	4 coupons
Honda CR-V	5 coupons
Honda Accord	6 coupons

Promo participants can win any of the following:

- One (1) of two (2) Honda Jazz Sports Edition cars
- One (1) of five (5) trips for two to Melbourne, Australia to watch the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix on March 6, 2005

Get a **BONUS** of up to **₱35,000***

* Instant cash bonus for all buyers will depend on model/variant purchased.

SEE FLYERS FOR DETAILS. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5726 Series of 2004

Visit any authorized dealers for details:

Manila
Honda Cars Manila, Inc. Tel. No. (02) 852 4181 Fax No. 852 1158
Honda Cars Alabang Tel. No. (02) 857 7888 Fax No. 857 5652
Honda Cars Pasig Tel. No. (02) 355 5701 Fax No. 357 2602
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc. Tel. No. (02) 712 8550 to 61 Fax No. 732 6559

Provincial
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc. Tel. No. (033) 2313502 Fax No. (032) 2314488
Honda Cars Iloilo, Inc. Tel. No. (039) 5227113 to 14 Fax No. (046) 3527212
Honda Cars Panabo, Inc. Tel. No. (075) 5221488 to 88 Fax No. (075) 5172339
Honda Cars Zamboanga, Inc. Tel. No. (074) 227486 Fax No. (074) 227487
Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc. Tel. No. (045) 9635116 Fax No. (045) 9635554
Honda Cars Negros Occidental Tel. No. (034) 7078000 Fax No. (034) 4411276

Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc.
Honda Cars Cagayan De Oro
Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc.
Honda Cars Ispale, Inc.
Honda Cars Marikina

Tel. No.: (045) 9828002 to 06 Fax No. (045) 9828007
Tel. No.: (048) 8594010 to 12 Fax No. (048) 8594015
Tel. No.: (053) 5539795 to 97 Fax No.: (053) 3613109
Tel. No.: (074) 9521245 Fax No.: (074) 9521246
Tel. No.: (032) 4223106 Fax No.: (032) 4223500



Deadline of entries December 29, 2004.
Raffle Draw will be on January 10, 2005.

More Christmas sur-Prizes at Stake!



Test drive any Honda car & get a chance to win a
• 29" Philips Flat TV
• Philips Hi-Fi component
• Honda premium items

U.L.T. Photo Contest

Send in your best U.L.T. seat photo & win up to P50,000 cash & an Epson photo printer. Deadline is extended to Dec. 29, 2004.



HONDA
www.hondaphil.com

WOW!

MAGIC SING

PREMIUM
Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!

All I Want for
CHRISTMAS



- ☒ The No.1 Videoke Microphone with
- WOWPHILIPPINES picture backgrounds
 - 793 Built-in Licensed songs plus **BIYAHE Tayo!** bonus song
 - WOW! Magic Sing Premium Neckphone
 - Mic Stand
 - User friendly songlist & manual
 - Leatherette bag
 - 5 meter cable
 - Auto-volt Electronic Adaptor
 - 1 year warranty
 - Lifetime Service
- ☒ Duet Microphone with
- **BIYAHE Tayo!** VCD
 - Receiver
- ☒ Tagalog 3, 4 & 5 Song Chips with
- **BIYAHE Tayo!** VCD
 - Licensed Songs
 - User-friendly Songlist



AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT: Made in Korea by: ET ENTERTECH Co. Ltd.

odyssey Automatic AstroVision
MUSIC & VIDEO CENTRE

ABENSON WESTERN MUSIC VIDEO

Home & Office Center **ASTROPLUS Avid BRANDS!**

SOLID ELECTRONICS **PACIFIC ELECTRONICS** **SAMSUNG MARKETING** **OHM'S TRADER** **Hirose ELECTRONICS**

Q & M Marketing **SANTECH** **ASSURANCE** **SMITH & SONS** **GOLDEN SOUND**

The Listening Room **SPEDRA** **TIONGSAM HARRISON** **Nintendo** **People's MARKETING**

CSU **CSI** **BBHF** **Consumer Appliance**

EVER APPLIANCE CENTER, INC. **Willy and Sons Corporation** **ABEN Marketing** **SOLAR SALES CENTER**

ECHO **ASIAN HOME** **REVERB** **ECO-TECH**

Cebu Appliances Center **CHITRA** **RES** **Apue's** **BQ**

SM-SUN **ORO HOLIDAY** **QUALITY APPLIANCE PLAZA INC.** **SPECIAL APPLIANCE PLAZA INC.**

RAINBOW APPLIANCE PLAZA INC. **CERTIFIED QUALITY APPLIANCE INC.** **Vista** **OPALIN'S** **BBCS**

GOLDEN BELL **Wholesale Solidmark Inc.** **SILVERA** **BETTER LIVING**

Metro Manila Dealers:
Armstrong Genzola Poyat Roon, Manila • Knight Audio Room Roon Shopping Center, Manila • Fair N' Square Escotte St. Binondo, Manila, Nueva St. Binondo, Manila • Ample • Vespulap Appliances • Richard Electronics • Filigita Fajano Merchants Bldg. Legaspi Village, Makati City • Earl Toy World • Shop Manila • Y&Z Business Center • Golden Miting • Jams Appliances • Buy Smart • Prosound • Listening Style • Victorinox Computers, Inc. • Sound Quest Electronic Center • Bethel Marketing • Belcap • Yamaha School of Music • Wilsonic Marketing • A Plus A • Welcome Home Appliance Corp.

Provincial Dealers:
788 Dezaar Baguio City • Audio Mix Calanoguen, San Jose Delmonte • Gonzalez Merchandising Corp. • Jay's Radio Center & Record Bar • Ocampo Angeles • Ocampo Mega Store Metro Mall, Poblacion, Balanga Bataan, Arthur St. WBB Olongapo City, Omnipoint Public Market, Davao City, Bataan

Visayas & Mindanao:
Treasure's Marketing Davao City • Lame & Pangarban Drive, Naga City • GC Appliance Corp. • Sirlita Consumer Electronics Cebu City • R.A. Uy Appliance - Pines Appliance Center • J&R Nueva St., Cebu City

It is proudly distributed by
in-a-jiffy enterprises & G2K Corporation
www.magicmic.com www.wowmagicsing.com

A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2004

LOW-GRADE FEVER

Cardinal Sin back in hospital

By Blanche S. Rivera

RETIREE Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin is back in the hospital.

Sin was brought to the Cardinal Santos Medical Center Sunday afternoon after he developed a low-grade fever, a source in the archdiocese of Manila said.

He remains in the intensive care unit but is conscious and stable, the source said. Aside from his immediate family, Sin's visitors have included current Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and Balanga Bishop Soc Villegas, his former secretary.

"He is alert and wants to go home," the source said.

Sin's private nurses advised that the cardinal be admitted to the hospital to make sure he did not suffer any complications from the fever.

This is the second time in three

months the cardinal, who rose to worldwide fame after leading two bloodless revolts in the Philippines, was confined in the hospital.

Sin was rushed to Cardinal Santos on Oct. 11 after he suffered an arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat, and subsequent congestive heart failure while undergoing dialysis at his residence at Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City. He was in the hospital for 17 days.

Sin, 76, undergoes dialysis thrice a week after suffering kidney failure. He has been wheelchair-bound since early this year and rarely presides over Mass anymore.

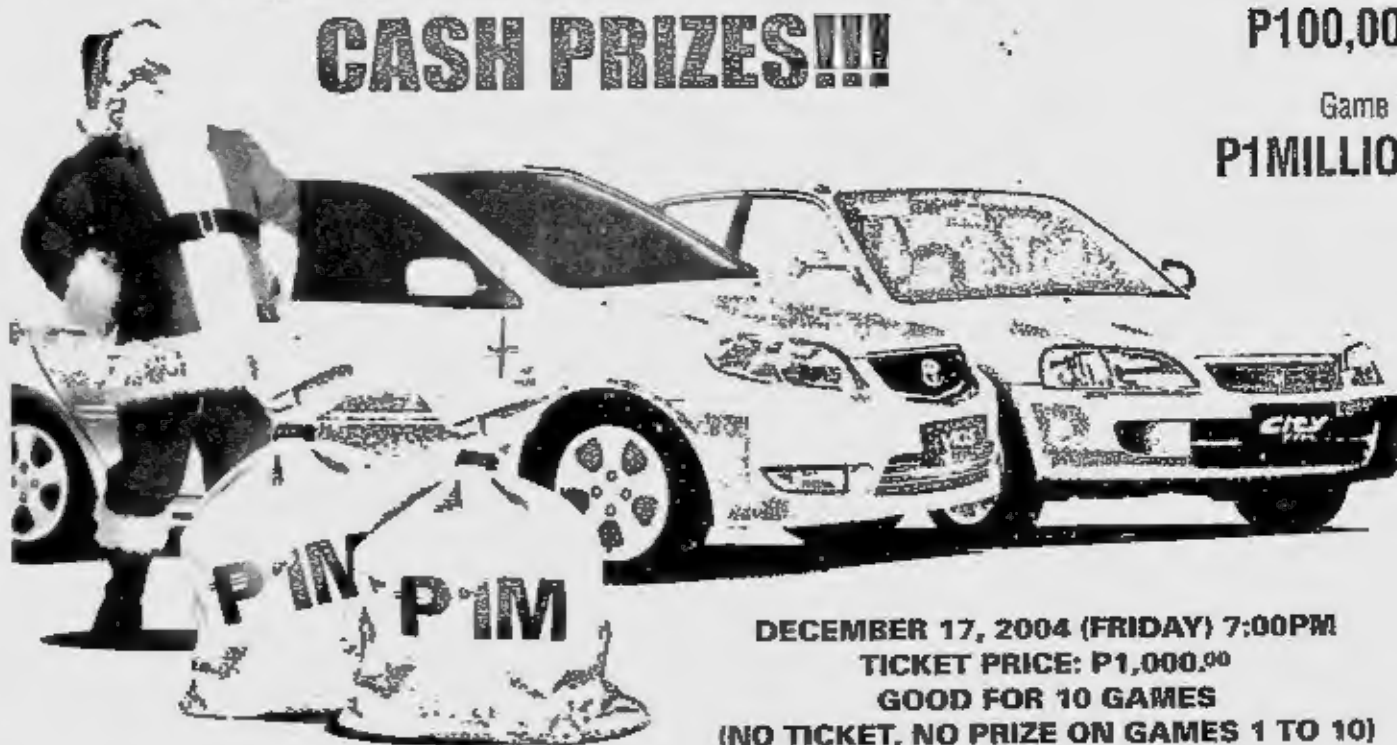
Manila's longest-serving archbishop, who led the archdiocese for 29 years, suffered a stroke in March last year and was released from the hospital after about a week of confinement.



SIN

Christmas BINGO SPECIAL Bonanza

WIN
TWO P1 MILLION
AND 2 BRAND
NEW CARS!
PLUS THOUSANDS OF
CASH PRIZES!!!



DECEMBER 17, 2004 (FRIDAY) 7:00PM
TICKET PRICE: P1,000.00
GOOD FOR 10 GAMES
(NO TICKET, NO PRIZE ON GAMES 1 TO 10)

PRIZE LINE-UP

Game 1
P100,000

Game 2
P100,000

Game 3
HONDA
CITY

Game 4
P100,000

Game 5
P1 MILLION

Game 6
P100,000

Game 7
P100,000

Game 8
TOYOTA
VIOS

Game 9
P100,000

Game 10
P1 MILLION

YOU CAN GET YOUR TICKETS AT:

BINGO SM MEGAMALL
MANDALUYONG CITY

BINGO SM SOUTHMALL
LAS PIÑAS CITY

Bingo Station SM CITY BACOD
BACOD, CAVITE

BINGO SM CITY ANNEX
NORTH EDSA, Q.C.

Bingo Palace ROBINSONS PLACE
MALATE, MANILA

Metro Bingo M STAR
PAMPLONA 2
LAS PIÑAS CITY

BINGO NEW FARMERS
PLAZA
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY

Bingo Plaza SM CENTERPOINT
QUEZON CITY

Galleria BINGO ROBINSONS
GALLERIA
ORTIGAS, Q. C.

BINGO STA. LUCIA EAST
BRANDMALL
CAINTA, RIZAL

BINGO SM CITY FAIRVIEW
QUEZON CITY

Festival BINGO FESTIVAL
SUPER MALL
FIJINVEST, ALABANG

BINGO MAKATI CINEMA
SQUARE
MAKATI CITY

BINGO SM CITY MANILA
SAN MARCELINO ST.,
MANILA

Bingo Extravaganza SM SUCAT
SUPER CENTER,
PARARAQUE CITY

Walter Mart Makati Community Shopping Center Now Open



Bigger! Better! Walter Mart Supermarket ICA

"Your family deserves our best!"



Now Open in Pasong Tamo, Makati!

Come on in and shop with us again! We're now open with bigger space and with all the items you need to complete your home. Still with the efficient and friendly service you love.

Welcome back to an improved supermarket experience.

Welcome back to Walter Mart Pasong Tamo Makati!

Located at the heart of Makati City, at the corner of Pasong Tamo (Chino Roces Avenue) and Pasay Road (Arnaiz Avenue), is a bigger and better Walter Mart Makati Community Shopping Center which has now opened its doors to everyone in time for the holidays.

For Walter Mart, customer's needs and preferences are foremost in its mind. The main advantage of the new Walter Mart Makati Community Shopping Center is the ease and convenience of shopping in a personal and relaxing environment. It is a place where you can quickly attend to your basic, day-to-day shopping, dining, and entertainment needs in close proximity to where you live, work, and study.

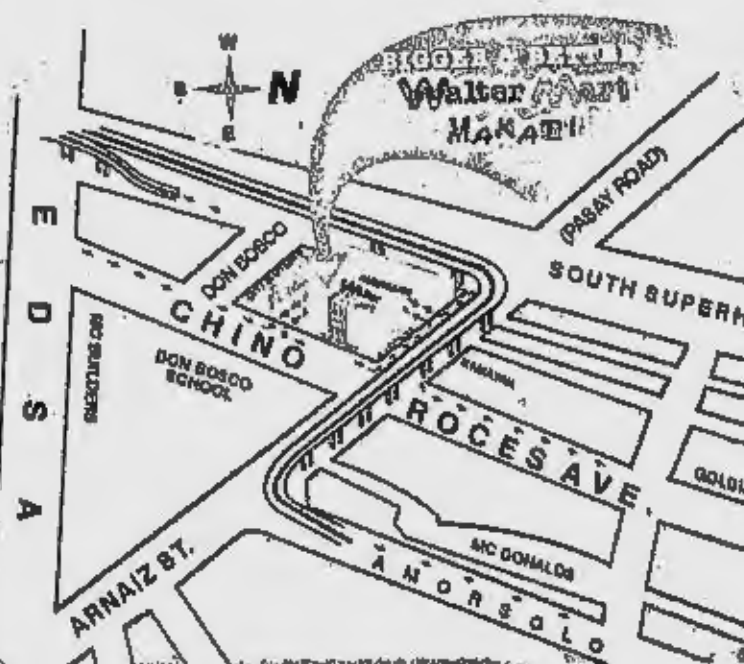
Now open at the ground floor of the new mall are Mercury Drug, Jollibee, Chowking, Red Ribbon and Taiko Japanese Restaurant. The flagship store of Walter Mart Supermarket is located at the 2nd floor, along with Fuji Mart, Hen Lin and other food establishments. Abenson Appliances is now open at the 4th floor. The 5th level will showcase all-digital state-of-the-art theaters before the year ends.

A complete roster of tenants will soon open at the new Walter Mart Makati Community Shopping Center. These include Abea Lifestyle Furniture Store, Watsons Personal Care store, Starbucks, Bibliarch, Robinsons Department Store, Alexis, Ideal Vision, Picture City, Kitara, Bread Works, Max's Fried Chicken, and a host of other complimentary tenants.

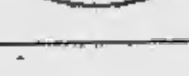
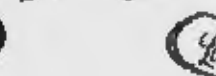
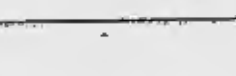
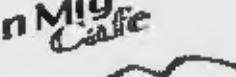
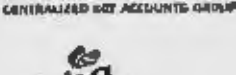
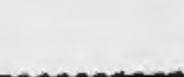
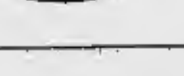
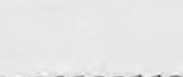
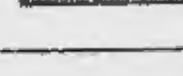
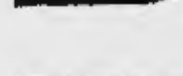
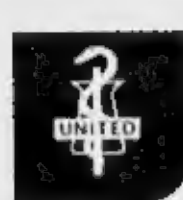
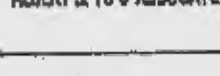
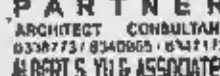
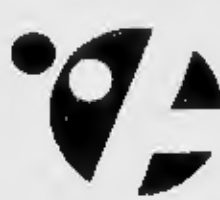
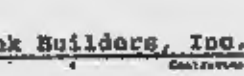
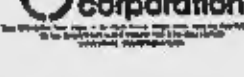
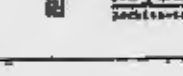
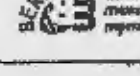
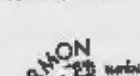
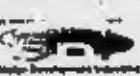
Going to the new Walter Mart Supermarket in Makati has also never been easier! There are vehicular and pedestrian access routes from both the Pasong Tamo (Chino Roces Avenue) and Pasay Road (Arnaiz Avenue) sides, and over 300 available parking spaces in the basement and ground floors. Within the new Walter Mart Makati Community Shopping Center, there are all floor elevators and escalators, as well as walkalators from the lower ground floor parking to the 2nd level.

So come and visit the new Walter Mart Makati Community Shopping Center and experience the Walter Mart advantage!

Established in 1992, Walter Mart has 14 supermarket branches and eight shopping centers in Metro Manila, North Luzon, and South Luzon. Walter Mart is committed to providing a convenient shopping destination and active participation in the social development efforts designed to uplift the quality of life of the local community.



Congratulations from:



IN AN unprecedented move, the Department of Education (DepEd) has decided to recall over a million copies of an erroneous history textbook from public high schools as an "emergency measure."

Education officials said yesterday 1.147 million copies of "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap," which contained gross errors, will be replaced with a new book hopefully beginning January next year.

The new book, simply titled "Pag-aaral ng mga Bunsang Asyano," was written by 18 University of the Philippines professors and edited by Prof. Grace Estela Mateo of the UP Department of Social Sciences.

Working round the clock since October, the UP professors rewrote the textbook's last few chapters, which would be taken up in the third- and fourth-quarter periods. They are still working on the rest of the chapters.

The DepEd grudgingly admitted in October that Marian School supervisor Antonio Go was right in saying that "Asya" was riddled with errors in each of its 316 pages. Go, who is on a personal crusade against erroneous textbooks, has been pointing out these errors to DepEd since 2001.

Published by SD Publications, "Asyn" was authored by Teofista Vivar, Ruth Fuentes, Evelina Villoria and the late Bernabe Quintana.

"We'll get 'Asya' from the schools and we'll replace them with this new book," Secretary Florencio Abad said yesterday. Abad earlier ruled out recalling all the copies of "Asya" due to the huge cost and logistics involved.

Undersecretary for programs Fe Hida,go, who oversaw the re-writing, said they hoped to get the new textbook to the 5,700 public high schools by January.

"This is just an emergency measure," she pointed out, because otherwise students would still be using "Asya" for the next school year.

"Asya" has been used in public and private high schools for the last seven and 13 years, respectively. Hidalgo said she had turned over the 113-page manuscript to Vibal Publishing House, a parent company of Sigma Publications. Vibal was told to shoulder the entire printing and distribution cost, which could easily run to tens of millions of pesos.

Vibal would also print and distribute 13,000 teacher manuals.

"The cost is no longer our concern. The publisher is picking up the entire cost. Our concern is [getting] the books to the schools," Undersecretary for finance Juan Miguel Lutz said.

He said the 19 U.S. professors had the copyright of the new textbook. This meant Viba would not be able to sell the new textbook to private schools.

The authors of the new textbook are: Profs. Maria Luisa Cernagoy, Ricardo José Evelyn Miranda, Regius Tantoco, Alvin Bamero, Rowena Quintos-Bailon, M.

Luisa de Leon-Bolinao, Neil Santillan and Raymond Abejo of the UP History Department; UP history instructors Jerome Ong, Erwin Fernandez and senior lecturer Florina Orillas; Profs. Celestina Boncan and Mary

Dorothy d. Jose of the Social Sciences Department; John Ponsaran, a lecturer at the same department, and Profs. Lydia Agno, Celenia Balonso, Rosita Tadena of the College of Education.

Dona Z. Pazibugan

**HOMEMADE
FOODSTUFF**

FIESTA INTERCONTINENTAL
1 course... for 28 persons
\$1,250 only

BEEF ROAST SLIZES with
roasted potatoes & CHICKEN
LASAGNA (1 gal. tray)
cheesy and cheesy & POTATO
BARQUEE (35 doz. skt., 1
egg, 1000) & SEAFOOD
VEGET. (available all
varieties) (available) apple,
cranberry, raspberry, etc.
CHOPSUEY (vegetables and
meat) skced in thick chicken
sauce & RICE CHOCOLATE
CAKE (rich chocolate cake
basied with chocolate sauce)

CALL: 418-4521
929-9598 • 928-2765
926-6031 • 926-6079
915-3041 • 418-1228

FREE DELIVERY

PREMIUM SPECIAL, 4 courses
for 20 persons \$1,350 only

PULLMAN GRANDS 5 courses
for 20 persons \$2,200 min.
FIESTA GRANDE 11 courses
for 25 persons \$2,450 only

FIESTA PALMPO 6 courses
for 20 persons \$2,628 only

FIESTA GRANDE 8 courses
for 20 persons \$2,825 min.

FIESTA INTERCONTINENTAL 8 courses
for 28 persons \$2,968 only

HOLIDAY SPECIAL, 10 courses
for 25 persons \$3,225 min.
\$1,800 only

BUFFET DE LUXE
for 25 persons \$3,875 only

CALL HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF CO., 171 E. Lexington 2

Noritake
The Finest Name in Chinaware

**50% - 70%
DISCOUNT**
(Cash Basis or
Lay-Away Plan)


CENTENNIAL INVENTORY SALE
on Contemporary and Personalized Designs

November 29 to December 19, 2004
Mondays to Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**FREE MONOGRAM OR
45-PC. NORITAKE CENTENNIAL FINE CHINA SET FOR \$**
For every purchase of services for 12

To be held at:
PAMANA Marketing Corporation
947 EDSA, Philam, Quezon City 1104 (near MRT North Station, across SM City)
Telephone: 8261103 / 3148842 Fax: 4251762 Mobile: 0916-3821411

**EXTENDED
ON FEBRUARY 4!**



NIEVERA **AUSTIN**

LIVE IN CONCERT

**January 29, 2005
Saturday, 8:30 pm**

**February 4, 2005
Friday, 8:30 pm**

Armetta Coliseum

Seating at
P250 - P400 - P1208 - P1880
*Some 5% discount seats charged

Available at

**FOR TICKETS CALL
BRANDIE
551-7777**

also performing at
Wallerstein Club City
Hotel Grand Ballroom
**January 28, 2005
Friday, 8:30 pm**

Freedom Ring
Amphitheater
Clark Field, Pampanga
**February 5, 2005
Saturday 7:30 pm**



ROVER
Security System

CCTV DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDERS

(4) B/W CCTV PROMO PACKAGE.

P31,240.00

(4) COLOR CCTV PROMO PACKAGE.

P45,640.00

REPLACE YOUR MUX + TIME-LAPSE VCR



4 CHANNEL



16 CHANNEL

DIGITAL MULTIPLEXER RECORDERS

1/8" B/W Dome Cameras or
1/4" Color Dome Cameras








Monitor Digital Multiplexer Recorder

P16,650.00

NOW ONLY

P33,300.00

HARD DISK DRIVE NOT INCLUDED

PROMO ENDS UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2004

SHOWROOMS

ROVER SYSTEMS (HAKATI)
 Stall 4-B MC Home Builder's Depot
 Edsa cor. Pasang Tama,
 Malabon City
 Tel No. (632) 840-5623
 Telefax: (632) 840-3387

ROVER SYSTEMS (ORTIGAS)
 Stall B-5 MC Home Depot, Inc.
 168 Ortigas Ave., cor. Morales Ave.,
 Pasig City
 Tel No. (632) 638-3459
 Telefax: (632) 638-3860

Faltech
 Foire Technologies Inc.
 #49 E. Fernandez St.,
 San Juan, Metro Manila
 Tel. No. (632) 723-7850 (T. L.)
 Fax No. 724-5898
 Cel No. 0917-9384491
 E-mail: info@faltech.com

ROVER SYSTEMS (PORT BURNFACAO)
 CS-2217s -219 MC Home Depot
 23rd St., Bonifacio Blvd, Global City,
 Taguig Metro Manila
 Tel No. (632) 815-4929
 Telefax: (632) 815-4906

DILI GENERICS

Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!

Suggested Retail Price August 4, 2004: Maxatitipid ng high sa 50%

	DILI	Leading Brand	Savings*
Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa krot, lagnat o trangkaso)			
Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 24.00	104.00	80.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid lab. 500 mg	✓ 1.70	20.85	19.15/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 21.70	63.50	41.80/bot
Paracetamol lab 500 mg	✓ 0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)			
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓ 2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 80 ml	✓ 45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole lab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓ 2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓ 2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓ 25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)			
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocistene cap. 500 mg	✓ 2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocistene susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓ 32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa paglatae)			
Loperamide cap. 2mg	✓ 1.80	10.25	8.45/cap

Mababain ng gumugamot ang mga gamot na ito sa presyong mas abot kaysa sa leading brands.

Minang luponapala sa buong Hapagapang ng tatak DILI
If out of stock, call 711-3823 712-4990 743-1636



WATSON'S
YOUR PERSONAL CARE

EMILENE
PHARMACY

Carlot
SUPERDRUG

Rose
Pharmacy

For factory price visit: www.DILI-Generics.com for complete product & price information

DAVIDINK **"YOUR PARTNER IN PRODUCT & SERVICE EXCELLENCE"**

BILL COUNTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick Operation - 1-10 bills • 101 Denomination • Speed 100 bills / min. 	CHECK WRITERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-Digit & 10-Digit • Magnetic Printing • Heavy Duty 	LAMINATORS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable Temperature • 4 Heavy Duty rollers • Foreign & metric sized
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 copies per minute • Black & White or Color • Adjustable Printing Position • Versatile Converter 	PAPER SHREDDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-200 Sheet Size - 20mm • 10-200 Sheet Size - 20mm • 10-200 Sheet Size - 20mm 	WIRE & PLASTIC BINDING MACHINES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic Cover Binder • 1/2 Hole - 1/4 Hole • Adjustable Margin Drive
BUNDY CLOCKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/2 Hour - 1/4 Hour • 1/2 Hour - 1/4 Hour • 1/2 Hour - 1/4 Hour 	WIRE BINDER 2000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/2 Hour - 1/4 Hour • 1/2 Hour - 1/4 Hour • 1/2 Hour - 1/4 Hour 	4-10 sheets binding capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-1/2 sheets • 2-1/2 sheets • 2-1/2 sheets

8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327 • 8905332 E-mail: sales@davidink.com
8967764 • 8984331 • 8984337 Website: www.s-davidink.com

After the bitter empalaya war...

Time for a
better-tasting
Herbal HealthTea


Tizane Banaba Tea is made from banaba leaves, traditionally known for its health benefits on people suffering from diarrhea to diabetes mellitus. Banaba leaves contain **Colosolic acid**, a compound that has been studied by American and Japanese researchers for its blood sugar lowering property.

These leaves are processed by Pascual Laboratories, Inc. that operates a WHO cGMP compliant and ISO 9002:2000 Certified Pharmaceutical Plant.


Tizane Banaba Tea is caffeine-free and sugar-free.

Caution:
Not a replacement for anti-diabetic medicine.

Tizane
BANABA TEA

Available at:  **Pharmacy** drug stores and other leading drugstore outlets.

For inquiries, please call Alameda Haller: 411-0907

Manufactured by
 **Pascual Laboratories, Inc.**



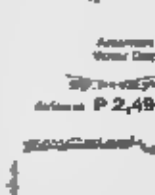



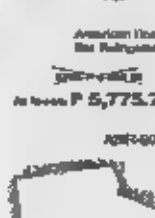
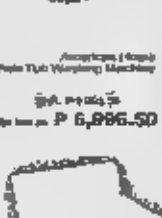




AMERICAN HOME®
Live the Dream!

Christmas BODEGA SALE

• Refrigerators • Microwave Ovens
• Heavy-Duty Washers & Dryers
• Twin Tubs • Ranges

December 9 to 20, 2004

at **ortigas home depot**

 American Home Dish Dishwasher 24" Dishwasher 24" Dishwasher As low as P 1,747.50	 American Home Electronic Microwave Oven 24" P-1000 As low as P 2,500.00
 American Home Water Dispenser 24" P-1000 As low as P 2,499.50	 ProLine Range 24" P-1000 As low as P 15,987.00
 Single Cycle 16 qt. Refrigerator 24" P-1000 As low as P 19,745.00	 American Home Heavy-Duty Washer 24" P-1000 As low as P 14,392.50
 American Home 16 qt. Refrigerator 24" P-1000 As low as P 5,775.75	 American Home Twin Tub Washing Machine 24" P-1000 As low as P 6,895.50
 American Home 16.5 Electric Dryer 24" P-1000 As low as P 10,987.00	 American Home 10.5 Washer 24" P-1000 As low as P 14,250.00
 American Home 16.5 Electric Dryer 24" P-1000 As low as P 10,987.00	 American Home Electric Dryer 24" P-1000 As low as P 13,164.00

AMERICAN HOME® *Live the Dream!* **PROLINE®** **MAYTAG®**

UP to 70% OFF
ON ALL ITEMS

Offer good while supplies last.

American Home Hotline:

3744567-74

Ortigas Home Depot
#1 Doris Julia Vargas Ave.,
near ex. Interpico Ave.,
Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City
Tel. 938-0772

* Actual retail value may vary. Some restrictions. For OTC/NCR Permit No. A2-506 series of 2004

A circular seal with a large five-pointed star in the center. The star has the words "Super Brand" written across it. Around the star, the words "voted by readers" are at the top and "Readers Digest Philippines" is at the bottom. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004".

SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 1999



PILOT
Smooth
Advancement
in writing
technology
SUPER GEL
Superior
**ROLLER
BALLPEN**

PL 86-60

Philippine Exclusive Distributor
ACCOSMOS BAZAR, INC.
771 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1861 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 242-5671

The WORLD

Editor Laverne B. Gueco

Probe of Yushchenko's poisoning reopened

KIEV—The lawmaker heading the inquiry into the dioxin poisoning of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko has cast doubt on whether deliberate poisoning could be proven, as speculation mounts over who the culprit was.

Ukraine's outgoing government on Monday sought to take control of the inquiry into the poisoning of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, with officials close to the government taking charge of two investigations.

Monday's decision by a parliamentary committee to reopen its investigation follows a similar move by the country's prosecutor, an appointee of outgoing President Leonid Kuchma.

Yushchenko, the opposition

leader, praised Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun on Sunday for reopening the inquiry after doctors at an Austrian clinic determined over the weekend he had been poisoned by dioxin. But he said he hoped the investigation would be conducted after the Dec. 26 election because he didn't want the vote to be influenced by it.

A parliamentary decision is required before the commission ac-

tually begins work.

December's repeat vote was ordered by the Supreme Court after it determined last month's second-round election was fraudulent. Yushchenko's rival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, had been declared the winner of that vote.

Getting to the bottom of what happened to Yushchenko is fraught with troubles because many people—both in business

and politics—stood to gain from sidelining him.

"So far we don't have an independent source of information which could allow us to analyze the situation," said Mikhail Pohrebinsky, a Kiev-based political analyst with ties to Kuchma. He said that all of the scenarios about Yushchenko's poisoning "are politically motivated and far from the truth."

Pro-Yushchenko lawmaker Yuriy Pavlenko speculated that Russian agents may have been involved—a popular local theory stemming from Russian President Vladimir Putin's backing of Yanukovich.

Many of the ruling political and business elite faced the loss of lucrative contracts made possible by high-level connections if Yanukovich—Kuchma's hand-picked successor—lost the race, analysts said. AP

10% of all bird species face extinction by 2100

WASHINGTON—About 10 percent of all bird species face extinction by the end of the century and 15 percent more are on the brink, according to researchers who say such extinctions would have a widespread impact on the environment, agriculture and human society.

"Important ecosystem processes, particularly decomposition, pollination and seed dispersal, will likely decline as a result of the loss of bird species," said Cagan H. Sekercioglu of the Stanford University Center for Conservation Biology.

The forecast of Sekercioglu and colleagues, published online Monday by Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, comes a month after the World Conservation Union reported a continuing loss of species, including an estimate that 12 percent of birds are threatened with extinction.

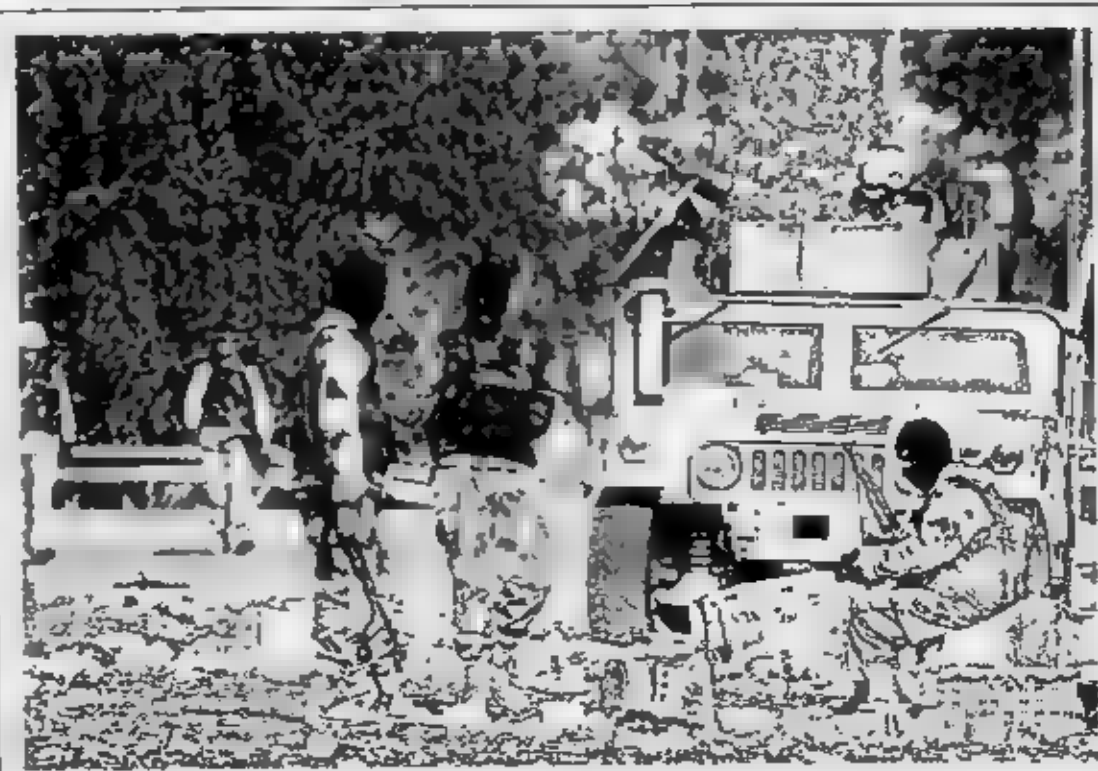
The Stanford estimate was based on a year of study and a computer calculation of three possible scenarios.

The result was a forecast that between 6 and 14 percent of all bird species will be extinct by 2100 and 700 to 2,500 species will be critically endangered or extinct in the wild.

"Given the momentum of climate change, widespread habitat loss and increasing numbers of invasive species, avian declines and extinctions are predicted to continue unabated in the near future," Sekercioglu said.

Such losses, the team said, could have a significant impact in many aspects of society.

For example birds pollinate many plant species and carry the seeds of others to new locations. AP



BOMB ATTACK

Members of the Iraqi National Guard and US soldiers secure the site where a suicide car bomb exploded near an entrance to Baghdad's Green Zone on Tuesday. The blast occurred at a National Guard recruiting center near the entrance where another suicide bomb killed seven Iraqis the previous day. AP

T-Rays eyed vs terror, diseases

ADELAIDE—They can see through clothing, plastic and packaging well enough to identify explosives, guns or even biological weapons instantly and accurately.

They have the potential to become a powerful new weapon in the fight against crime and the war on terror, they can also penetrate bad weather, dust or smoke better than infrared or visible systems, and they can even detect diseases like cancer.

Welcome to the cutting edge of radio and optical science, Terahertz Rays, or T-Rays, discovered a century ago, but developed into a useable technology only within the last few years and about to be showcased by an international conference here this week.

Leading scientists from Australia, the United States, Europe and Asia will share the latest advances in the technology at the conference, sponsored by the Australian government's Defense Science and Technology Organization (DSTO) at Adelaide University on Thursday and Friday.

One of the principal speakers will be the acknowledged "father" of T-Rays, professor Xi-Cheng Zhang of New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who has spent more than 20 years developing them.

Recognized as a difficult area of physics, T-Rays are described as emissions between infrared and microwaves.

"Most molecules vibrate in the terahertz frequency, so if you can detect them with T-Rays, you can get a very good 'fingerprint' conference organizer, Adelaide University professor Derek Abbott said in a statement Tuesday.

"T-Rays pass through things like food packaging, clothing, plastic and cardboard enabling us to analyze what's inside."

"This means they can be used to detect and identify weapons of metal or plastic, illicit drugs or biological hazards like anthrax, even if they were hermetically sealed."

"You can find out much more about the substance than you would with optical, infra-red or x-ray imaging, and this helps to identify it precisely."

Because T-Rays are low energy, they are also safe to use around people, unlike X-rays. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Car bomb kills 7 anew in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide car bomber killed seven people when he struck a checkpoint at Baghdad's Green Zone early Tuesday, the second attack in two days at the district that houses Iraq's interim government and foreign embassies, officials said. Police Lt. Rafid Abid said the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber. Two Marines assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in action Monday "while conducting security and stabilization operations" in the vast Anbar province west of Baghdad, the military said Tuesday. AP

36 trapped in flooded China mine

BEIJING—Rescuers furiously pumped water Monday from a shaft at a flooded mine in southwest China where 36 workers are missing and feared dead as the country reels from another disaster in the danger-plagued industry. Water gushed into the Xujiaaba Tianchi mine in Shanxi county Sunday when 80 miners were in the shaft, Wu Ming, an official at the mine, said. Forty-four workers got out safely, but the others were unaccounted for, he said. "Right now we have five pumps working to evacuate the water, we still don't know how deep the water is," Wu said. "At this time it is hard to say if those in the mine have a chance to survive." So far no casualties have been reported. AP

Taiwan president resigns from party

TAIPEI—Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on Tuesday resigned as leader of the Democratic Progressive Party taking the blame for last weekend's parliamentary election defeat. Chen stepped down at the first meeting of the party's Central Standing Committee since Saturday's legislative polls. "A-bian (Chen's nickname) here wants to voice my deep apology to the country's supporters," he read from a statement prepared in advance. And "in order to take full responsibility, I have tendered my resignation to the party's Central Standing Committee." Chen's popularity has fallen to a record low of 34 percent after the defeat of his pro-independence alliance in the elections, a survey released Monday said. AP

Darfur rebels suspend peace talks

ABUJA—Darfur rebels suspended formal peace talks in Nigeria on Monday to put pressure on the government to halt an offensive in the vast desert region, delegates said. Rebel negotiators said they would not leave the Nigerian capital Abuja immediately, and were still open to informal consultations, but that the formal talks would not resume until the situation on the ground improved. "We are suspending the talks until the situation has changed and there is a clear commitment that the Sudanese government will stop the offensive," said Bahar Ibrahim, a member of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement. Reuters

Top US officials warned vs AIDS drug

WASHINGTON—Weeks before President George W. Bush announced a plan to protect African babies from AIDS, top US health officials were warned that research on the key drug was flawed and may have underreported severe reactions including deaths, government documents show.

The 2002 warnings about the drug, nevirapine, were serious enough to suspend testing for more than a year, let Uganda's government know of the dangers and prompt the drug's maker to pull its request for permission to use the medicine to protect newborns in the United States.

But the National Institutes of Health, the government's premier health research agency, chose not to inform the White House as it scrambled to keep its

experts' concerns from scuttling the use of nevirapine in Africa as a cheap solution, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

"Everyone recognized the enormity that this decision could have on the worldwide use of nevirapine to interrupt mother-to-baby transmission," NIH's AIDS research chief, Dr. Edmund C. Tramont, reported March 14, 2002, to his boss, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The documents show Tramont and other NIH officials dismissed the problems with the nevirapine research in Uganda as overblown and were slow to report safety concerns to the Food and Drug Administration.

Records for NIH's nevirapine

research in Uganda were so sloppy that NIH investigators couldn't be sure which mothers got the drug. They had to use blood samples to confirm doses, the documents show.

Less than a month after Bush announced a \$500 million plan to push nevirapine across Africa to slow the AIDS epidemic, the Health and Human Services Department sent a nine-page letter to Ugandan officials identifying violations of federal patient protection rules by NIH's research. Africa accounts for more than two-thirds of the world's AIDS cases, with 27 million infected.

The NIH research "may have represented a failure to minimize risk to the subjects," the Office of Human Research Protections told Ugandan authorities in summer 2002. AP

Indian train collision kills at least 50

NEW DELHI—Fifty people were killed and around 150 injured Tuesday when two passenger trains collided head-on in the northern Indian state of Punjab, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Singh made the statement in the state assembly in the Punjab capital Chandigarh. There has

been substantial damage to four bogies of the two trains, he added.

Indian news agencies and media reported that dozens had been hurt in the crash.

"The cause of the accident is not known," Yadav added before leaving for the crash site near Mansar village 150 km east of the holy Sikh city of Amritsar in Punjab state.

Mulsha Raj Sharma, station su-

perintendent in the city of Jammu, the winter capital of Indian Kashmir, said the trains had collided head-on.

The Army was called out to help in the rescue efforts and cranes had arrived at the crash scene near Mansar, witnesses said.

Villagers near the crash site in the heart of rural India helped in frantic efforts to free trapped passengers. APB Reuters

PASRONG

PASKO

NA

TALASA

only **P35**

add **P18**

Green Salad

1 pc. chicken meal

P60

2 pc. chicken meal

P98

spaghetti and 1 pc. chicken meal

P75

spring chicken meal

P98

Tropical Hut

The WORLD

Editor Luvaine B. Gueco

Probe of Yushchenko's poisoning reopened

KIEV—The lawmaker heading the inquiry into the dioxin poisoning of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko has cast doubt on whether deliberate poisoning could be proven, as speculation mounts over who the culprit was.

Ukraine's outgoing government on Monday sought to take control of the inquiry into the poisoning of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, with officials close to the government taking charge of two investigations.

Monday's decision by a parliamentary committee to reopen its investigation follows a similar move by the country's prosecutor, an appointee of outgoing President Leonid Kuchma.

Yushchenko, the opposition

leader, praised Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun on Sunday for reopening the inquiry after doctors at an Austrian clinic determined over the weekend he had been poisoned by dioxin. But he said he hoped the investigation would be conducted after the Dec. 26 election because he didn't want the vote to be influenced by it.

A parliamentary decision is required before the commission ac-

tually begins work.

December's repeat vote was ordered by the Supreme Court after it determined last month's second-round election was fraudulent. Yushchenko's rival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, had been declared the winner of that vote.

Getting to the bottom of what happened to Yushchenko is fraught with troubles because many people—both in business

and politics—stood to gain from sidelining him.

"So far we don't have an independent source of information which could allow us to analyze the situation," said Mikhail Pohrebinsky, a Kiev-based political analyst with ties to Kuchma. He said that all of the scenarios about Yushchenko's poisoning "are politically motivated and far from the truth."

Pro-Yushchenko lawmaker Yuri Pavlenko speculated that Russian agents may have been involved—a popular local theory stemming from Russian President Vladimir Putin's backing of Yanukovich.

Many of the ruling political and business elite faced the loss of lucrative contracts made possible by high-level connections if Yanukovich—Kuchma's hand-picked successor—lost the race, analysts said. AP

10% of all bird species face extinction by 2100

WASHINGTON—About 10 percent of all bird species face extinction by the end of the century and 15 percent more are on the brink, according to researchers who say such extinctions would have a widespread impact on the environment, agriculture and human society.

"Important ecosystem processes, particularly decomposition, pollination and seed dispersal, will likely decline as a result" of the loss of bird species, said Cagan H. Sekercioglu of the Stanford University Center for Conservation Biology.

The forecast of Sekercioglu and colleagues, published online Monday by Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, comes a month after the World Conservation Union reported a continuing loss of species, including an estimate that 12 percent of birds are threatened with extinction.

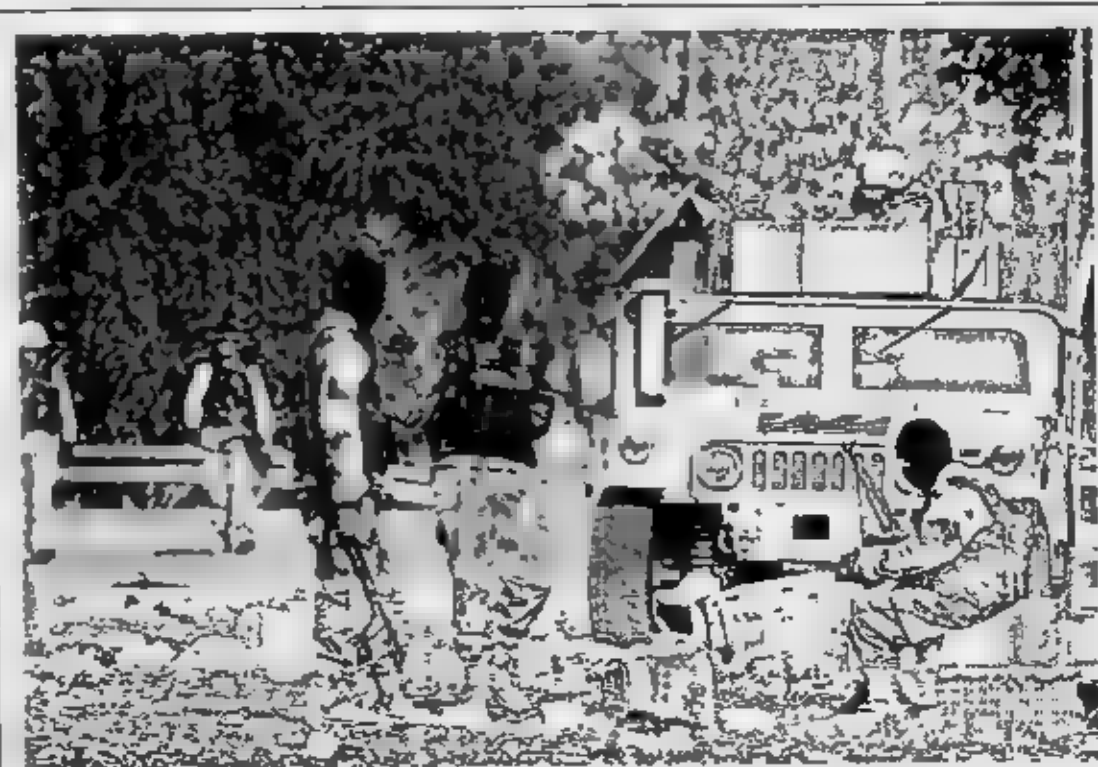
The Stanford estimate was based on a year of study and a computer calculation of three possible scenarios.

The result was a forecast that between 6 and 14 percent of all bird species will be extinct by 2100 and 700 to 2,500 species will be critically endangered or extinct in the wild.

"Given the momentum of climate change, widespread habitat loss and increasing numbers of invasive species, avian declines and extinctions are predicted to continue unabated in the near future," Sekercioglu said.

Such losses, the team said, could have a significant impact in many aspects of society.

For example birds pollinate many plant species and carry the seeds of others to new locations. AP



ATTACK

Members of the Iraqi National Guard and US soldiers secure the site where a suicide car bomb exploded near an entrance to Baghdad's Green Zone on Tuesday. The blast occurred at a National Guard recruiting center near the entrance where another suicide bomb killed seven Iraqis the previous day.

T-Rays eyed vs terror, diseases

ADELAIDE—They can see through clothing, plastic and packaging well enough to identify explosives, guns or even biological weapons instantly and accurately.

They have the potential to become a powerful new weapon in the fight against crime and the war on terror, they can also penetrate bad weather, dust or smoke better than infrared or visible systems, and they can even detect diseases like cancer.

Welcome to the cutting edge of radio and optical science, Terahertz Rays, or T-Rays, discovered a century ago, but developed into a useable technology only within the last few years and about to be showcased by an international conference here this week.

Leading scientists from Australia, the United States, Europe and Asia will share the latest advances in the technology at the conference, sponsored by the Australian government's Defense Science and Technology Organization (DSTO) at Adelaide University on Thursday and Friday.

One of the principal speakers will be the acknowledged "father" of T-Rays, professor Xi-Cheng Zhang of New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who has spent more than 20 years developing them.

Recognized as a difficult area of physics, T-Rays are described as emissions between infra-red and microwaves.

"Most molecules vibrate in the terahertz frequency, so if you can detect them with T-Rays, you can get a very good 'fingerprint' conference organizer, Adelaide University professor Derek Abbott said in a statement Tuesday.

"T-Rays pass through things like food packaging, clothing, plastic and cardboard enabling us to analyze what's inside."

"This means they can be used to detect and identify weapons of metal or plastic, illicit drugs or biological hazards like anthrax, even if they were hermetically sealed."

"You can find out much more about the substance than you would with optical, infra-red or x-ray imaging, and this helps to identify it precisely."

Because T-rays are low energy, they are also safe to use around people, unlike X-rays. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Car bomb kills 7 anew in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide car bomber killed seven people when he struck a checkpoint at Baghdad's Green Zone early Tuesday, the second attack in two days at the district that houses Iraq's interim government and foreign embassies, officials said. Police Lt. Rafid Abid said the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber. Two Marines assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in action Monday "while conducting security and stabilization operations" in the vast Anbar province west of Baghdad, the military said Tuesday. AP

36 trapped in flooded China mine

BELING—Rescuers furiously pumped water Monday from a shaft at a flooded mine in southwest China where 36 workers are missing and feared dead as the country reels from another disaster in the danger-plagued industry. Water gushed into the Xujiaaba Tianchi mine in Shanxi county Sunday when 80 miners were in the shaft. Wu Ming, an official at the mine, said. "Right now we have five pumps working to evacuate the water, we still don't know how deep the water is," Wu said. "At this time it is hard to say if those in the mine have a chance to survive." So far no casualties have been reported. AP

Taiwan president resigns from party

TAIPEI—Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on Tuesday resigned as leader of the Democratic Progressive Party, taking the blame for last weekend's parliamentary election defeat. Chen stepped down at the first meeting of the party's Central Standing Committee since Saturday's legislative polls. "A-bian (Chen's nickname) here wants to voice my deep apology to the country's supporters," he read from a statement prepared in advance. And "in order to take full responsibility, I have tendered my resignation to the party's Central Standing Committee." Chen's popularity has fallen to a record low of 34 percent after the defeat of his pro-independence alliance in the elections, a survey released Monday said. AP

Darfur rebels suspend peace talks

ABUJA—Darfur rebels suspended formal peace talks in Nigeria on Monday to put pressure on the government to halt an offensive in the vast desert region, delegates said. Rebel negotiators said they would not leave the Nigerian capital Abuja immediately, and were still open to informal consultations, but that the formal talks would not resume until the situation on the ground improved. "We are suspending the talks until the situation has changed and there is a clear commitment that the Sudanese government will stop the offensive," said Bahar Ibrahim, a member of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement. Reuters

Top US officials warned vs AIDS drug

WASHINGTON—Weeks before President George W. Bush announced a plan to protect African babies from AIDS, top US health officials were warned that research on the key drug was flawed and may have underreported severe reactions including deaths, government documents show.

The 2002 warnings about the drug, nevirapine, were serious enough to suspend testing for more than a year, let Uganda's government know of the dangers and prompt the drug's maker to pull its request for permission to use the medicine to protect newborns in the United States.

But the National Institutes of Health, the government's premier health research agency, chose not to inform the White House as it scrambled to keep its

experts' concerns from scuttling the use of nevirapine in Africa as a cheap solution, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

"Everyone recognized the enormity that this decision could have on the worldwide use of nevirapine to interrupt mother-baby transmission," NIH's AIDS research chief, Dr. Edmund C. Tramont, reported March 14, 2002, to his boss, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The documents show Tramont and other NIH officials dismissed the problems with the nevirapine research in Uganda as overblown and were slow to report safety concerns to the Food and Drug Administration.

Records for NIH's nevirapine

research in Uganda were so sloppy that NIH investigators couldn't be sure which mothers got the drug. They had to use blood samples to confirm doses, the documents show.

Less than a month after Bush announced a \$500 million plan to push nevirapine across Africa to slow the AIDS epidemic, the Health and Human Services Department sent a nine-page letter to Ugandan officials identifying violations of federal patient protection rules by NIH's research. Africa accounts for more than two-thirds of the world's AIDS cases, with 27 million infected.

The NIH research "may have represented a failure to minimize risk to the subjects," the Office of Human Research Protections told Ugandan authorities in summer 2002. AP

Indian train collision kills at least 50

NEW DELHI—Fifty people were killed and around 150 injured Tuesday when two passenger trains collided head-on in the northern Indian state of Punjab, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Singh made the statement in the state assembly in the Punjab capital Chandigarh. There has

been substantial damage to four bogies of the two trains, he added.

Indian news agencies and media reported that dozens had been hurt in the crash.

"The cause of the accident is not known," Yadav added before leaving for the crash site near Mansar village 150 km east of the holy Sikh city of Amritsar in Punjab state.

Mulkia Raj Sharma, station su-

perintendent in the city of Jammu,

the winter capital of Indian Kashmir,

said the trains had collided head-on.

The Army was called out to help in the rescue efforts and cranes had

arrived at the crash scene near

Mansar, witnesses said.

Villagers near the crash site in

the heart of rural India helped in

frantic efforts to free trapped passengers. AP/Reuters

Pinochet indicted for murder

SANTIAGO—A Chilean judge on Monday indicted former dictator Augusto Pinochet to stand trial for murder and kidnappings carried out under his 1973-1990 iron-fisted rule, also placing him under house arrest.

However, in a dramatic day for Pinochet, 89, his lawyers late Monday won an appeals court suspension of the order placing him under house arrest while the charges against him are reviewed by the higher court.

Judge Juan Guzman Tapia had filed charges based on nine victims of "Operation Condor," a conspiracy of 1970s South American military dictatorships to kill their opponents and spirit away their bodies.

The case could place Pinochet in the dock for the first time for alleged human rights abuses conducted during his 17-year rule.

"It is hard to say with words what it was like to hear this indictment by a judge," said a visibly moved Viviana Diaz, head of Families of Missing Detainees, one of the main anti-Pinochet groups.

"I think a very important process has started in the search for justice and truth," said lawyer Julia Urqueta.

Pinochet's lawyer, Pablo Rodriguez, said Pinochet was too old to stand trial.

"This is an abuse of the most basic human rights of a person who is put on trial without being able to defend himself," Rodriguez said. *AFP*

Nararanasan mo ba ang mga ito:

- ✓ Madalas mauhaw
- ✓ Madaling magutom
- ✓ Malimit na pag-ih
- ✓ Tumutulong kisame

Ang madalas na pagkauhaw, pagkagutom, at malimit na pag-ih ay maaaring palatandaan ng Diabetes, isang sakit na dama hanggang bukas.

Suli na lang, may mga gamot ang RiteMED para sa Diabetes na de-kalidad, opadibo at abot-kaya. Para sa mga sakit na araw-araw ang gamutan at para di ka magalit sa ibang pangangailangan.

Kumunsulta sa inyong doktor, isang lung ailing gamot ng RiteMED ang nararapat sa inyong karamdaman.

May abot-kayang gamot sa mamahaling sakit.

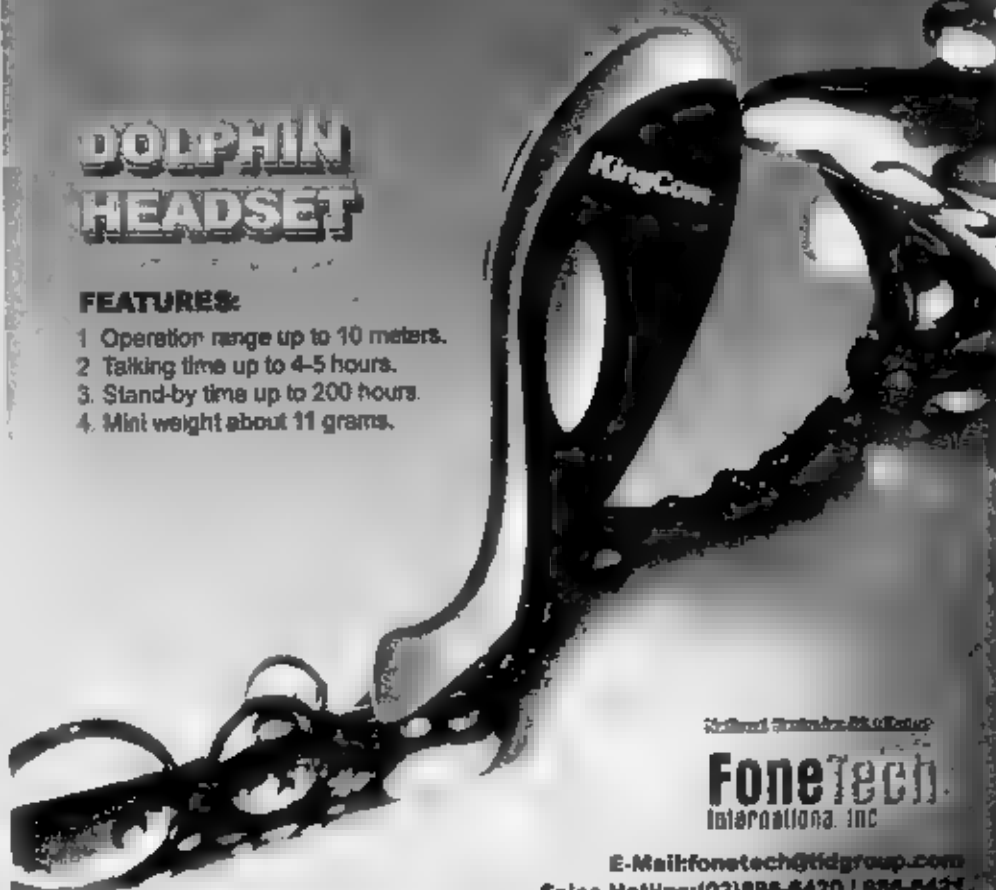
RiteMED
Ang tula sa buong mundo.

Digital Com

DOLPHIN HEADSET

FEATURES:

1. Operation range up to 10 meters.
2. Talking time up to 4-5 hours.
3. Stand-by time up to 200 hours.
4. Mini weight about 11 grams.



FoneTech
International, Inc.

E-Mail: foneotech@tdgroup.com
Sales Hotlines: (02) 886-8420 / 886-8421

Digitally Enhanced Cordless Telephone



KX-TC500
P6,690

Panasonic ideas for life

Panasonic Wireless Technology...
Smart people choose Panasonic



KX-TC400
P3,590



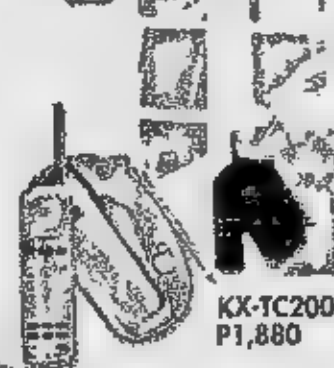
KX-TC1230
P5,490



KX-TC1220
P3,890



KX-TC1210
P3,090



KX-TC2000
P1,880

IMPORTANT SERVICE NOTICE

Panasonic Philippines notifies the public that we are not allowed to repair Panasonic 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz cordless phones as per regulation by National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). Such cordless phones are illegal in the Philippines and they may interfere cellular phones, etc. In this regard, we advise the consumers not to buy 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz cordless phones. All the Panasonic cordless phones distributed by Panasonic Philippines comply with the regulations and are type-approved by NTC.

Model	KX-TC500	KX-TC400	KX-TC1230	KX-TC1220	KX-TC1210	KX-TC2000
Frequency Range	45 MHz - 46 MHz	45 MHz - 46 MHz	45 MHz - 46 MHz	45 MHz - 46 MHz	45 MHz - 46 MHz	45 MHz - 46 MHz
Caller-ID Compatible*						
Caller-ID Memory			50 stations	50 stations	50 stations	50 stations
Ring Melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	14 melodies	32 tones
Polyphonic Ring Tones						
Key Lock						
Navigation Key						
Joystick						
Large LCD with Blue Backlight						
Lighted Handset Keypad						
Phone Directory	11 stations	30 stations	30 stations	50 stations	20 stations	200 stations
Handset Locator (Paging)						
Intercom w/ 2-way paging						
Speakerphone						
Dual Keypads						
Digital Answering System						
Recording Time				up to 15 mins.		up to 6 handsets
Multi-Handset Capability (Optional)						

*Note: Caller ID Subscription required. Prices (SAP based) and features are subject to change without prior notice.

Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation)
Tel. Nos. 899-4546 to 50 • Fax No. 897-4550 • Email address: system@mepecc.panasonic.com.ph

How would you like to erase P1,000,000 from your housing loan?



Join the BPI Family Savings Bank

ERASE your HOUSING LOAN Promo

Get the chance to erase P100,000, P250,000, P500,000 or even P1,000,000 from your Happy Family Housing Loan!

MECHANICS:

1. All clients who avail of a BPI Family Savings Bank Happy Family Housing Loan, for a minimum loan amount of P400,000, from July 1 to December 15, 2004 will be entitled to a raffle ticket. Loan avancements coursed through any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank Branch, Express Banking Center or Business Center nationwide or through BPI Express Online are qualified to join the promo.
2. There will be one raffle ticket number for every loan booked. The raffle ticket number will correspond to the loan account number.
3. To qualify for the promo, the purpose of the loan should be any of the following:
 - Purchase of Lot, House and Lot, Townhouse or Residential Condominium
 - House Construction
 - Home Renovation
 - Refinancing of existing loan with other banks
 - Multi-purpose Loan
4. There will be three draws and one Grand Draw wherein client's loan will be erased up to P1 Million. Non-winning loan accounts are still qualified in the succeeding draws. The draw dates are as follows:

First Draw : September 10, 2004 (Friday)	- cut-off dates: July 1 to August 31, 2004
Second Draw : October 8, 2004 (Friday)	- cut-off dates: July 1 to September 30, 2004
Third Draw : November 10, 2004 (Wednesday)**	- cut-off dates: July 1 to October 31, 2004
Grand Draw : December 23, 2004 (Thursday)	- cut-off dates: July 1 to December 15, 2004

The prizes are as follows:

- 1st Draw - 3 winners of P100,000.00 each, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.
- 2nd Draw - 2 winners of P250,000.00 each, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.
- 3rd Draw - 1 winner of P500,000.00, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.
- Grand Draw - 1 winner of P1.0 Million, tax-free, to be applied to the entire loan.*

*In the event that the outstanding balance of the winner is less than the prize amount, the difference will be credited to the winner's settlement account.

1. All eligible accounts must be in current status as of raffle draw date to be included in the raffle.
2. Each account number may win only once during the entire promo period.
3. Winners will be notified through registered mail and will be published in leading newspapers.
4. All employees of the Unibank, its subsidiaries, its advertising and promo agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity/affinity are disqualified to join this promo.
5. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
6. Taxes on prizes exceeding P10,000 will be shouldered by BPI Family Savings Bank.
7. In cases of dispute, the decision of BPI Family Savings Bank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

Promo runs from July 1 to December 15, 2004 only! Call 845-6888 or 89-100
Log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com
Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center Nationwide.

For provincial inquiries, call our Business Centers: Dagupan (075) 522-0372 to 73
• San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 961-4672, 963-5524 • Iipa (043) 757-1000 to 02
• Cebu (032) 231-3395 / 3097 • Bacolod (034) 433-8032 to 33 • Iloilo (033) 337-0613 to 14 • Davao (082) 235-3558 to 60 • Cagayan de Oro (08822) 726-067 / 929

Apply for a Happy Family Housing Loan now and enjoy low monthly amortization, fast approvals and expert loan advice.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

HAPPY FAMILY HOUSING LOAN

It's All In the Family!

Per DTI-MCR Permit No. 1211, Series of 2004.
**approved by DTI-MCR

ISSN
0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 20 No. 7

OPINION

Text on your feedback: inquirer.opi@nra.com or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at:
 • Cebu: Room 205 corner Yagor and Macaranda Sts., Malabon City
 • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office (263) Makati City
 • Our telephone numbers are 897-8806 connecting all departments
 • Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4087
 • Circulation 827-3343 / 827-3348 / 828-0183
 • 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-0234.



Publisher IBIGAM YAMBIT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGALANO
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLEDO
Associate Editor AMELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCILLANO
News Editor ANTONIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • **Chief, News Day Desk** NILO B. PAULION
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ANITA
National Editor PERCINTINO B. BANGAYAN, JR.
City Editor GERRY LIMO
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SANTIAGO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO OROZCO
Chief Photographer ERNESTO U. SANTIAGO
Art & Design Director LETHY A. YILLARMA
Board Chairman MARIO R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-RODRIGUEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REMOSO
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services DARIO G. VALDES
VP for Advertising FELIX P. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LANDIABAL

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without the prior written permission.

The quiet man

IN "MEASURE for Measure," there is this Shakespearean line: "Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall." Fernando Poe Jr. was, first and foremost, that rare example of a man, the self-made aristocrat. There is no other way to understand him than by comprehending the implications of this characterization. He was heir to a great name, a beloved one: his father was both a hero of the screen and a hero of the resistance.

EDITORIAL to the Japanese invader. And yet, his father having died young, Ronnie Poe had to carve out for himself a life and career that would both honor his father and make up for the loss of income and support caused by his father's death.

In an industry whose glitz and glitter never quite outshine the ruthlessness, intrigue and self-indulgence that is its dark side, Poe honed his creative talent and used his great capacity for discipline to overcome and achieve. He mastered the rules, even breaking them when he had to, by defying producers and directors (and becoming one himself) in order to establish himself as a star no longer at the mercy of the industry. He molded the industry to his will, and forever changed it.

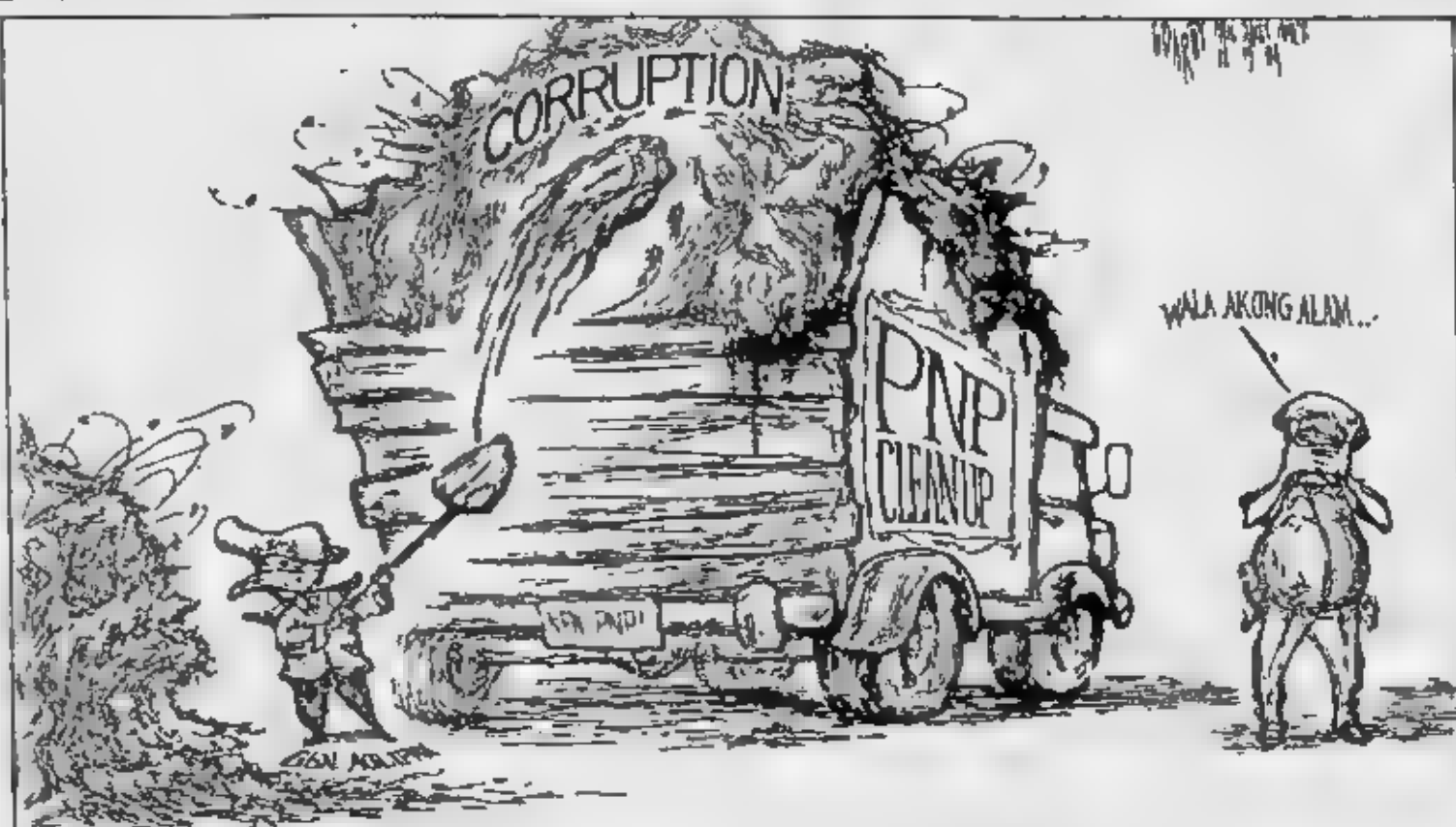
He had, on his side, an instinctive understanding of the requirements of his craft, fundamental among them, an appreciation of the thinking of his audience. He mastered the tricky combination of illusion, of establishing, and thereafter promoting a heroic figure on screen, while maintaining a kind of authenticity that merged what he saw as his own virtues with those his audience believed in, and wanted to see. He was generous, he was kind, he was helpful. He was also quiet and remote, a lone wolf that became a pack leader.

There was a near-mystical bond between not only his fans and himself, but between his fellow actors, producers, directors and technicians in the movie industry and himself. He was always grateful, in a society in which gratitude is a supremely important virtue. He was generous, in a society that demands generosity from achievers. He not only made, but maintained, lasting friendships. He was, within the forgiving bounds of his generation's attitudes, not only loyal to his wife, but gave her every courtesy and respect. He was also a genuinely loving foster father.

And yet in acquiring everything a self-made man would want, from wealth to professional prestige, to property and a respected family, he was autocratic and patriarchal in his professional and personal life. That is, he was not only acknowledged as king of Philippine cinema, but he was kingly in his behavior, as our society sees kingship: remote yet approachable, stern yet forgiving, commanding yet courtly, but always remembering and never failing to remind that he was boss. He had the common touch, but there was nothing common about his tastes, his habits, even his politics.

Because of his last, and unsuccessful, role as presidential contender, the reckoning of his life must necessarily include the political. He may have always viewed it with suspicion and contempt, but he definitely had specific ideas about it. He and his wife were loyal admirers of Ferdinand Marcos, who, rightly or wrongly, was viewed by many as the personification of a self-made aristocrat. Poe's own quest for the presidency was not merely motivated by loyalty to an old friend, Joseph Estrada, whom he loved but whose trust he never abused. It was spurred on by a self-made man's desire to provide the kind of leadership conservative, self-made men want, and miss: devoted to property; desirous of order and peace; hierarchical, patriarchal; a *datu* for the common man. Malakas for a weak society.

His fans grieve for Poe today. It is fair to say all Filipinos of a certain age see in his passing one more sign that the virtues of traditional Filipino society are receding even more firmly into the past. With the passing of a famous man, it is tempting to excuse his faults and pay tribute only to his virtues. The truth is, Poe was what Filipinos like to see: simple virtues tempered by occasional faults, the whole made marvelous by the imperfection of its parts. For in the end, both the private and public man were built on an appeal to every person's conviction that they can at least dream of being a hero.



Angara defends self, total log ban

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



I BELIEVE there is a concerted effort to put down Sen. Edgardo Angara by his enemies, and the recent floods and landslides in his home province of Aurora and neighboring Quezon presented an opportunity to do that. Every day I receive text messages from unknown sources attacking Angara, blaming him for the tragedy that befell the two provinces because his family, so the messages said, is either into logging or coddling loggers. My media colleagues received similar messages.

Angara, who was the lone guest in last Monday's Kapitan sa Manila (Hotel), said he knew who his attackers were but declined, out of delicacy, to name them. He denied being a logger or sponsoring any logging company. He admitted that he knew one of the logging concessionaires in Aurora but that was because they were fraternity brothers in the University of the Philippines. But he never sponsored nor coddled the logger, he said.

Neither did a priest say Angara was benefiting from the logging business nor did Ka Roger say that he was behind the logging operations in Aurora, he said. He related how the stories to that effect came out in the media.

He said the priest wrote him a letter denying the things attributed to him by the media. A reporter had asked the priest if he thought somebody was benefiting from the illegal logging operations in Aurora, and the priest's answer was, "It's possible."

This was interpreted in media that the Angara family, because it is the political kingpin in Aurora, was benefiting from the logging operations. As for Ka Roger, he said he only got his information from what that priest said.

That part of the misunderstanding has been clarified several times, but why do the text messages repeating the wrong accusations continue?

Angara told the Kapitan that 70 percent of Aurora and Quezon are still covered with forests. The landslides occurred in only one town in Aurora (Dingalan) and three in adjacent Quezon (Real, Infanta and Nakar). It was the extremely huge amount of rainfall that

soaked the mountainsides and loosened the soil which triggered the floods and landslides. Many of those who perished had erected their houses on a dry riverbed. When torrents filled the river, the homes and the people sleeping in them were washed away.

Contrary to what the propaganda against him claims, Angara said, he is not a logger coddler. He is in favor of a total log ban. Records will show that during the two times that a total log ban was voted upon in the Senate, he voted for it. Had the House of Representatives not reject its own log ban bill, we would have had a total log ban now, he said. He would again vote for a total ban when a new bill comes along.

The opposition senator said he had not asked the administration for a Cabinet position. While admitting that he and President Macapagal-Arroyo indeed had a meeting, he denied accepting membership in her Cabinet. He said he would rather stay in the Senate. He wants to finish his third term and be the longest-serving senator.

Angara criticized government forest policies. Private tree plantations are good, he said, but placing them beside public forests is bad. The plantation owners illegally poach on the public forests so they have an income while waiting for their own trees to mature.

Another faulty forest policy is the so-called "community-based forest management," which leaves it to the community to manage the forest near it, on the theory that it knows best what to do with its forest. This has been proven disastrous in Real, Infanta, Nakar and Dingalan. Their residents admitted that they had illegally cut trees for lumber, for

firewood and charcoal, and for selling to gardeners for landscaping purposes. That is their only means of livelihood, they said. But many of them and their neighbors lost their lives because of it. They should have known better but did not.

Even with a total log ban, the illegal cutting of trees will continue as long as there is a big demand for the forest products. Like I said in a previous column, the Philippine construction industry is very wasteful in the use of wood. A policy that would wean the industry away from wood should be put in place. Many other countries, like the United States, are already doing that, using substitutes that are cheaper and more durable in place of wood.

With the rising cost of liquefied petroleum gas, many people are going back to firewood even in the urban areas. And the hundreds of thousands of barbecue stands and *hawthaw* restaurants all over the country have created a big demand for charcoal.

All these demands can be satisfied without denuding our forests, however. In the first place, we will earn more money if we preserve our forests rather than cut them. Because of dwindling wild places in the world, tourists troop to countries that still have them.

The provinces of Quezon and Aurora, although named after the first president of the Philippine Commonwealth and his first lady, are among the most undeveloped in the country because of their remoteness. But they are also among the most beautiful, with a narrow plain sandwiched between the Sierra Madre Mountains and wide sand beaches and the sea. There are many waterfalls and lakes in the mountains and islets and magnificent coral reefs in the blue sea. These are what tourists are looking for, since there are pitifully few of them left in the world. Instead of cutting the forests for livelihood, the residents will get jobs from tourists attracted by the standing forests.

(To be continued)

Secrets

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



of justice, not as a matter of stopping corruption. No level of pay will stop corruption—greed is bottomless. Only a culture of honesty will, one that rewards good and punishes evil.

Which brings us to Lee's last point. In this country, every time a monumental inquiry happens, the universal call is to mete out the death penalty to the criminals. Well, the death penalty, or any penalty, including torture, won't mean anything if the criminals are not caught. Only recently, government officials have been shouting death to the "illegal loggers." In fact, it is not the "illegal loggers" who have wrought the deaths in Quezon, it is the legal ones. It was not the logs of the *kanigeros* and the Dumagats that tumbled on the folk that lived at the foot of the mountain, it was the logs of the legal loggers.

Erap's trial has become a travesty. All it says is not that the crooked will be punished but that the clown will be caught. It does not warn public officials to be honest, it warns them to be careful.

Lee's comments are worth taking seriously. But I myself have always thought they were derivative problems in our context. Our not having a clean government, our not paying officials right, and our not punishing wrongdoers themselves owe to deeper problems, whose solutions Singapore also points to.

The first of these problems is a lack of sense of country. I've talked about this repeatedly. Corruption does happen in other countries. Indonesia has the dubious honor of having had a leader, Suharto, who topped Transparency International's list of most corrupt tyrants in the world (Marcos was only second). We keep envying Singapore for its ironfisted rule. Well,

Thailand too has progressed by leaps and bounds and it isn't ruled by an iron fist. What Singapore and Thailand simply have in common are people who would not dream of being citizens of a country other than Singapore and Thailand.

The second I've also talked about repeatedly. Corruption riots because we do not have a sense of taxpayers' money. The money we give in taxes we regard as tribute or *balato*, something we part with grudgingly, never expecting them to come back in roads, bridges and services. We rough up pickpockets in the streets because we regard what they do as stealing. We don't do the same thing to public officials because we regard what they do as ROI, a return on (campaign) investment.

And finally, a sense of pride. Over the past several months, I've gotten a lot of hate mail from Filipinos demanding to know what I've got against nurses and caregivers. It's perfectly respectable work, why do I keep putting it down? My answer to this is that I'm not. I'm not putting down nurses and caregivers, I'm putting down the attitude that we can only be a nation of nurses and caregivers. An attitude to be found in our doctors agreeing to become so abroad, and in our educational system which is being geared to produce an army of nurses and caregivers. We used to be second only to Japan in economic potential in the 1950s. Have we fallen so low?

Contrast that with the attitude of Singaporeans that says anything you can do, I can do better. You may find that attitude a little arrogant but it's the kind of attitude that makes Singapore Airlines one of the best in the world, and that makes airline personnel chase after you when you've left something at the airport. Personally experienced the latter, while in a state of utter absentmindedness, and this wasn't after 9/11 either. They take pride in honesty. You do not become world-class by having the mentality of a parochial. You do not join the guests at the table by having the mentality of a servant.

Some secrets are not really that hard to fetch out.

Politics of poison

ANALYSIS

Amando
Doronila

UKRAINIAN opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko has returned to Kiev, battling for his life and to win the rerun on Dec. 26 of the rigged Nov. 21 run-off presidential election.

Yushchenko arrived from Vienna with his once handsome face disfigured by lesions and scars after Viennese doctors confirmed he had been a victim of dioxin poisoning. Doctors at Rudolf-Heinrich clinic said tests showed his blood had 1,000 more times the normal level of dioxin.

He has accused Ukrainian authorities of poisoning him and said that he was "happy to be alive." The results of the medical tests have introduced another explosive element to the new round of election as the Ukrainian prosecutor-general launched a criminal investigation into an incident evocative of Cold War espionage tactics.

The incident reminds us of the murky history of poison as a weapon to get rid of inconvenient persons and political rivals, including Napoleon under British captivity in St. Helena.

Death from poisoning is the stuff of conspiracy theories, and the case of Yushchenko suggests involvement of Ukrainian intelligence services, reportedly with links to the KGB which has been suspected of being behind the mysterious death of the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

Viennese doctors were unable to say whether it was the result of a deliberate act and left it to specialists and criminal investigators to determine responsibility. They have, however, said Yushchenko would have no long-term functional damage and was "fully capable of working," meaning he has not been disabled and can go back to the election campaign.

The tests have gained political sympathy for Yushchenko instead of causing doubts about whether he is healthy enough to run the country. Opinion polls have Yushchenko leading incumbent Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who is backed by President Vladimir Putin of Russia, by 46 percent to 39 percent. The Ukrainian Supreme Court has ordered a rerun on Dec. 26 of the disputed November run-off election after voiding its results, which had

Yanukovich as the winner, on grounds of fraud.

The Supreme Court's decision broke three weeks of political stand-off, during which supporters of Yushchenko staged a massive people power-style "orange revolution" by blockading government buildings in Kiev that pushed the country to the brink of a civil war.

Doctors have told Yushchenko he can return to the campaign trail, but it may be years before he returns to normal. But there's a political dynamite in the criminal investigation that could involve Ukrainian intelligence services and the regime of President Leonid Kuchma in the poisoning.

Yushchenko fell ill in September after a late dinner at the home of Volodymyr Sasysuk, first deputy chair of SBU, Ukraine's intelligence service. Other senior security officials were present at the dinner, including SBU chief Thor Smeshko. Yushchenko began suffering agonizing abdominal pains soon after the dinner.

Kateryna Yushchenko, wife of the opposition leader, has said in an interview that she tasted poison on his lips as they kissed the night he fell ill.

"I thought there was something different about my husband when he came home that night," she said, "because he has never taken any medicine, he's a very healthy man. I tasted some medicine on his breath, on his lips. And I asked him about it. He brushed it away, saying there is nothing."

The next day he checked into a private clinic and became very ill. He was taken to a hospital in Vienna. After treatment, his internal swelling and ulcers began to recede but he developed back pain so severe that a morphine drip was fitted into his spine.

The man who would be king

HE was and will forever be known as "Da King," but Fernando Poe Jr. could have really been "king" in these parts, where the president commands extraordinary powers way beyond even the scope of the political office, as the exploits of his "best friend" Erap would prove.

He was "the man who would be king," the man who sought to turn the place he had earned in the hearts of the Filipino people, especially the movie-going public, into political capital. Or perhaps a better way of putting it would be that he was a man whose image and persona others had sought to mine for political gain. Up till the day he announced his candidacy, most everybody believed that FPJ had neither the heart nor the stomach for politics. And he would show this distaste for the nuttiness of partisan contests during the heated campaign, when he refused to meet with the media until his reelection began to take a toll on his poll numbers, and when he allowed his temper to get the better of him, most famously with a TV reporter.

By most accounts a regular nice guy, the only one in the crowded retinue of Joseph Estrada, it is said, who refused to exploit his closeness to the new President or even accept a justly-deserved reward, Poe would see his carefully guarded image tarnished in the course of his campaign. Intensely private, and protected from prying eyes by the entire movie industry and a compliant and adoring entertainment press, FPJ would see his most intimate secrets bared wide open, his family history and even the circumstances of his birth scrutinized and speculated on. He would be lampooned by those scornful of his lack of academic preparation, vilified by those who predicted doom for this country if ever he would win.

If anyone ever needed an object lesson on the perils of politics for the neophyte, Poe's electoral experience provides a sterling example.

It was his wife Susan Roces who best articulated the sacrifice that Poe's political advisers were asking of him.

They could have both just faded into a comfortable retirement, she told the media soon after that tumultuous announcement of his

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



candidacy at the Manila Hotel. They could have both retreated into private life and enjoyed the fruits of decades of hard work and courting the fickle public. Instead, at a time of well-deserved respite from their labors, Poe, as well as his wife, would be drawn into an arena that was alien to them and would call on all their energies, resources and fortitude.

True, they had both been public figures for most of their adult lives. True, they were not exactly political virgins, since FPJ had been embroiled in the campaigns of Erap from mayor to senator to vice president and then president. But always, his role was that of loyal supporter and staunch friend. Now, as his career was fading and after many years of service to an industry and profession he loved and that loved him back, he was putting his life and reputation on the line, chasing after the highest office of the land.

It doesn't take a medical degree to see the links between his failed run for the presidency and the resulting frustration and perhaps depression, and his stroke some days back. He may not have felt the physical signs, and might even have been in denial about the blow to his ego, but the stress of the campaign and then the contentious counting as well as the ongoing electoral protest would have surely taken its toll.

It's really sad that a man who was looking forward to a life of ease and comfort had to forsake that to heed the call of politics. Whose call was it? Was his candidacy the result of a blinding revelation or an inspiration? Or was it merely an accommodation to vindicate a lifelong friend?

The Kuchma government, which had prematurely declared Yanukovich the winner in the November run-off election, scornfully dismissed the notion of poisoning. It said the unsightly purple swelling was the result of Yushchenko's "eating bad sushi" and drinking, too.

According to Agence France Presse research, dioxin is a term referring to a group of substances created as by-products from factories that use chlorine, such as pesticide, paper or plastic plants. Incinerator fumes also contain dioxins.

"They are widespread in developed nations, and low doses have accumulated in the bodies of most people in the industrialized world," the news agency reported. "But some dioxins are highly toxic. TCDD, for example, is one of the agents thought to have caused long-term problems for Vietnam veterans exposed to the Agent Orange herbicide."

Massive quantities of dioxin can cause a type of adult acne called chloracne, which can take up to three years to heal.

Poisoning has been associated with the KGB as a favored method of carrying out assassinations. In 1978, the London-based Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov died after someone thrust a ferule of an umbrella into his leg, depositing a tiny capsule containing a lethal amount of ricin.

In ancient times, there were celebrated cases of poisoning. One such case is told by Suetonius, the Roman historian, who wrote on the poisoning attempt on Emperor Claudius by his wife Agrippina.

"Agrippina did (it) herself at a family banquet, poisoning a dish of mushrooms, his favorite food," said Suetonius. But the mushrooms did not achieve the intended effect. The poison used apparently was another species of mushroom.

According to Robert Graves, the translator of Suetonius, Claudius vomited up the mushrooms, negating the effect. He was then poisoned a second time, using the juice of a "Palestinian wild ground," which was administered orally and as an enema, leaving the observation that "it must have been a truly horrible way to go."

Close friends of FPJ say he decided to cast his lot with the opposition after the "FPJ for President Movement" held its first rally, filling up the Cuneta Astrodome with avid supporters who did not need to be paid to show up, paying for their own transportation and touting their own packed meals. He was moved by this show of support, and felt he could not disappoint the thousands who had shown, in the most concrete way, their commitment to his cause.

With his death, the legions of FPJ's followers would surely have only cemented their loyalty, admiration and love for this icon of Philippine cinema.

And with his death, Poe himself has assured his immortality. If he had lived on to a gracious old age, he would not live as long in the nation's memory as he would today, dying all of a sudden, while the memory of his candidacy was still fresh, and his cinematic legend had yet to be enshrined.

STILL, spare his family. Spare his widow, the still lovely and gracious Susan Roces, the slimy back-splash of partisan opportunism.

I would not blame her for feeling that it was precisely her husband's entry into politics that caused his death. It seems the height of insensitivity, then, to even suggest that she take up the fallen banner of her husband. In the first place, it's said that it was Susan who most firmly stood in her husband's way when the politicians were ganging up on him and holding out the temptation of becoming president. In the second, now is the time for grieving and for remembering and celebrating the memory of the man. Don't tarnish that memory by bringing politics into the picture when it is absolutely uncalled for.

If fate is merciful, what Filipinos will remember of Fernando Poe Jr. will be the actor, director and film icon—not the tragic politician. They will remember him as Ang Panday, the man who embodied in his carefully nurtured image and body of work the underdog who bears his suffering stoically but prevails in the end. The man who was—is—the Filipino for all Filipinos.

Nurturing trees, nurturing democracy

THE NOBEL Peace Prize has usually been associated with people helping to resolve armed conflicts (for example, the United Nations' Kofi Annan) or those who provide assistance to victims of these conflicts (Medecins sans Frontieres or Doctors Without Borders). This year it was different. The Peace Prize was awarded to a Kenyan environmental activist, Wangari Maathai, known for her Green Belt Movement which has resulted in the planting of 30 million trees in several African countries.

People will ask, as I did: What does tree planting have to do with peace?

It's a question we should be asking ourselves in the Philippines, as we continue to reel from the destruction caused by flooding in deforested areas.

Biologist, veterinarian, activist

From her biography posted in the Nobel Prize website, we learn she obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in biological sciences from the United States and went on to obtain a Ph.D. in veterinary medicine at the University of Nairobi, making her the first woman in East and Central Africa to have a doctorate. Maathai taught veterinary anatomy at the University of Nairobi for several years.

In 1977, as a member of the National Council of Women of Kenya, she introduced the idea of women's groups planting trees to improve their quality of life. This led to the formation of the Green Belt Movement, which has since spread to other African countries. The movement uses tree planting as an entry point for community development, and has since spun off many other activities, including eco-safaris, where foreign tourists come in as volunteers to help plant trees.

Maathai combined her environmentalism with political activism, opposing the autocratic Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi and even running against him in the presidential elections in 1997. Her opposition to the Moi regime was based in part on his anti-environmental policies. Maathai was imprisoned several times for her opposition to the government, and was hospitalized once after being beaten up in a rally.

The Moi government was voted out of power in 2002. During those elections, Maathai won a seat in parliament and has since been appointed assistant minister for environment, natural resources and wildlife.

A women's movement

Maathai began her Nobel Peace lecture by referring to the fact that she was the first African woman to receive the prize, and that, in accepting it, she was particularly mindful of the situation of women and the girl child. She started the Green Belt Movement mainly as a response "to needs identified by rural women, namely lack of firewood, clean drinking water, balanced diets, shelter and income." Because women are the primary caretakers for families and the land, they are the first to become aware of environmental damage, with tree planting being "a natural choice."

Maathai was able to mobilize women to plant trees not just for environmental conservation but for very practical purposes, including income generation, the tree seedlings eventually being sold to nurseries. There are lessons here for Filipinos. We still see tree planting as a token gesture done on Environment Day rather than as a vital tool for survival.

Maathai gives new meanings to tree planting, describing it as concrete action taken to change one's situation. It is, she says, "an act from where you can make a difference."

Once women discovered they had the power to act, the Green Belt meetings became forums to tackle other social issues, from violence within their households to government corruption to unfair international trade agreements that affected the farmers' livelihoods.

In her Nobel lecture, Maathai was emphatic about the relationship between democracy and environmental conservation: "...responsible governance of the environment was impossible without democratic space."

We Filipinos should remember that the plunder of our forests was most intense during the Marcos dictatorship, as concessions were parceled out to his cronies. By the time democracy was restored in 1986, our forests had practically been wiped out. Since then, even with formal democratic institutions restored, political warlords and dynasties have continued to control the country, using their power to destroy what's left of the forests while moving on to pillage the rest of the environment.

In a BBC special, Maathai described how the tree became a symbol for democratic struggle in Kenya. In 1989, the Kenyan government fenced off part of Nairobi's Uhuru (Freedom) Park, where one of Moi's business cronies wanted to build a 60-story building. Maathai joined other Kenyans to protest, and eventually the government backed off. Maathai says that the day authorities removed the fence around the park was "the beginning of the end of the dictatorship."

Through the years, Nairobi's Uhuru Park continued to be the focus of political action, Kenyans planting trees to demand the release of political prisoners and for a transition to democracy. In the BBC special, Maathai used this powerful metaphor: nurturing the trees is like nurturing the seeds for democracy.

And peace?

Maathai said trees were planted during the anti-dictatorship struggle in Kenya as part of a call for peaceful transition to democracy. Eventually, tree planting was also used for conflict resolution, especially during ethnic conflicts in Kenya. These "peace trees" actually drew from traditional practices: for example, the elders of the Kikuyu tribe would carry a staff from the thorn tree and place this between two disputing sides to stop fighting and get reconciliation talks going.

Reading that part of Maathai's Nobel lecture, I thought of our own situation, of the conflicts in Mindanao, for example, that erupt from the competition for scarce land and resources. I thought, too, of our own situation in urban areas, where we continue to use up our rapidly dwindling green spaces, depriving young Filipinos of potential parks and recreation areas. In such a situation, should it be surprising that young people turn to a violent culture of fraternities and drugs?

Maathai links the environment to democracy and peace. "Indeed, the state of any country's environment is a reflection of the kind of governance in place, and without good governance there can be no peace," she says. "Many countries, which have poor governance systems, are also likely to have conflicts and poor laws protecting the environment."

We need to ask ourselves: If we are indeed a democracy, why do we suffer so much from environmental degradation, together with all the problems resulting from the loss of natural resources, from deadly floods to hungry severely malnourished children?

Is there a way out of this quagmire? Maathai would point us to the trees, and the communities mobilized for tree planting, for the answers.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



Comments are welcome at aocampo@postnet.edu

Prayers for the Revolution

CHRISTMAS traffic is upon us again. Our yearly experience of being stuck on the road near malls and commercial centers is enough to dilute the spirit of giving (and buying, of course) generated by lights, décor and Christmas carols playing on public address systems.

There is something about the season that makes us forget, at least momentarily, the pressures of everyday life. In recent days, my students seem to be far away, lost in thought, not about the past and history but about Christmas parties past and future. One wonders if people felt this way at Christmas during the Philippine Revolution, the Filipino-American War, or even World War II. Soldiers may have no occasion for shopping, but usually a ceasefire is called on Dec. 25 so that the battle-weary can rest and think of peace. Why we cannot hold on to this wonderful spirit indefinitely is the challenge that has faced man for a long time.

One man who had a miserable Christmas in 1896 was Jose Rizal who was locked up in Fort Santiago and brought out only to face a military court on charges of treason. Rizal left us with a lot of letters and he seems to have forgotten to describe us last Christmas. He was not allowed to see his family, except for his mother and sisters. His father and elder brother Paciano were not allowed to see him, the only males allowed into the cell were toddlers. Rizal left us with a lot of documentation for various parts of his life but is silent about Christmas 1896, knowing that he faced a death sentence as soon as the trial was concluded.

In this silence, we have room to imagine how he filled his time. Sleeping or perhaps scribbling his "Ultimo Adios"? A historian studying this period in Rizal's life often wishes that some sort of document was left, but then having nothing and being forced to imagine can be better.

There is a lot of documentation on the Philippine Revolution that remains to be looked into and evaluated, but in the great mass that is now in the National Library, the Philippine Revolu-

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R.
Ocampo

tionary Records or PRUR (formerly the Philippine Insurgent Records or PIR) will tell us how Christmas was celebrated during the Revolution. All it needs is a historian who is looking specifically for documents on the topic.

The Jesuit historians, Pedro de Acunegui and Miguel Bernad, have compiled an interesting mix of documents on Aguinaldo and the Revolution of 1896 (Ateneo de Manila, 1972) that give us a sense of the times. I refer to two letters that ask for prayers. The first one is dated Nov. 16, 1896 and is originally in Tagalog. The text reads:

"In gratitude to the help extended to our Katipunan by the Blessed Mother of God, whose perpetual succor we have felt in trying to achieve our liberty, please command your Brothers of the Katipunan under your jurisdiction to tell the townspeople to recite the Holy Rosary at all hours. Ask them to implore the help of the Holy Mother and of her Child to redeem us from the bondage of slavery and to take us under the mantle of grace. For three consecutive nights, ask the Brothers under your jurisdiction to pray that the enemy may abandon their contemptible conduct and that they face God and the mercy of heaven. Thus, the freedom which we have been able to hold so far may be ours forever."

"Please try to fulfill the order I gave last week with regard to the reinforcement of the camps and inform us of its compliance."

Praying the rosary for three consecutive nights in the hopes of a military victory is quite signifi-

cant because the Spaniards surely prayed just as hard for a different outcome. Not knowing God as well as some people today, I wonder how He settled the issue.

The other document is signed by Baldomero Aguinaldo and is dated Jan. 14, 1897. He ordered the following:

"To the Military Commanders and Presidents of the towns mentioned in the margin [these are Malibis, Magdalo, Gargano, Haligui, Magpuri, Sumilang, Magapibag, Alapaap, Matallong and Taliba]:

"According to a message sent here by a countryperson of ours who is reliable and sympathetic to our cause, the enemy will attack our towns on the 24th of this month. However, we should be on guard even in the intervening days, and prepare all ways and means for our defense."

"Please order the people, especially the women, to make novenas. Ask those in charge of the barrios to be strict in carrying out this order, because we must understand that our prayers to Almighty God are really powerful weapons against our enemies."

In previous columns, I have written about various feasts and parties that Aguinaldo attended even when he was being pursued up north from Malolos by the Americans. Even in times for great difficulty, the Filipino found time to relax and to party. They also found a time to pray, a time to fight, a time to retreat.

There are documents on the music that was played, the food that was served and enjoyed. Trivial, of course, in the wider context of the struggle for independence but important to our understanding of how the Revolution was fought. Surely, there are more documents asking for prayers as there are instructions to soldiers on how to fight. When all of these are unearthed and studied, only then will we get a complete picture of the Revolution.

...

OPINION

Ideal choices for important gov't posts

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's revamp of the Department of National Defense should be replicated in other departments and other vital government agencies in order to inject a fresh outlook and a new perspective in governance. Desperate times require bold decisions; it demands "thinking out of the box."

The conventional mode of recruiting Cabinet members exclusively from within the presidential inner circle should be discarded. A

wider recruitment net is needed to reenergize and reinvigorate the bureaucracy.

For a start it may be a good idea to appoint Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government and a Ramon Magsaysay awardee, to the Bureau of Customs, both as a symbolic gesture and a powerful signal to corrupt elements that it won't be business as usual. This would be one last big fight for Yorac before she finally decides to

bow out of public service. At the PCGG, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada would be an ideal choice. He would bring to the commission the same moral integrity and competence that Yorac possesses.

At the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, also a Ramon Magsabay awardee, would be a good choice. Young, brilliant and a multi-awarded local government executive, Robredo should be given a chance to

shine in the national stage. Interior Secretary-designate Angelo Reyes is too controversial a figure and has become a constant target of attacks from opposition politicians.

Bukidnon Rep. JR Nereas Acosta is another young and emerging political leader and the only Ph.D. holder in the House of Representatives. He was recently a recipient of the Yale University World Fellows Program. His academic and professional qualifications

seem underutilized in the lower chamber. A Cabinet portfolio would certainly make full use of his academic credentials and legislative experience. He is the principal author of the Clean Air Act.

The recruitment of retired Ayala executive Francisco Lucyanan into government service is a welcome development. The administration should bring in from the private sector more people of Lucyanan's caliber, reputation and expertise.

It is to the administration's advantage to undertake a wide-ranging revamp in the executive branch, if only to bring back the public's confidence in the Arroyo administration's capacity to get the job done.

—FERDIE T. STBAL,
18 Green Leaves St.,
Capitol Green Village,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Two mysterious deaths of military officers

WITH MAJ Gen. Carlos Garcia on trial for irregularities he allegedly committed when he was the comptroller of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the authorities might as well investigate the killing of Commodore Nestor G. Fernando and Lt. Philip Pestaño, naval officers and graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. The two were killed reportedly for exposing AFP irregularities.

Fernando was killed inside his office at the Joint Command and Staff College, Camp Aguinaldo, while investigating a multimillion-peso project scam. Pestaño was found dead inside his cabin in a naval ship to which he was assigned. At the time of his death, he was said to be set on exposing an illegal logging activity by some senior officers. To add insult to injury, the deputy commandant involved in the JCSC scam was promoted to brigadier general of the Philippine Air Force.

Fernando and Pestasio were just two of the many AFP officers killed for being idealistic and dedicated to their duty.

The Garcia case has shown that the Magdalo boys had all the reasons to rebel. Instead of being commended for their act, which the government labeled as "adventurism" and "mutiny," they were jailed. Who else would dare come up to expose wrongdoings in the AFP and the Philippine National Police?

I challenge President Macapagal-Arroyo: If she wants to restore the people's trust in the AFP, PNP and the government, she should address this problem once and for all by ordering a full-dress, no-holds-barred and impartial investigation. *Tigilan na niya ang pagpapatacute. Di maganda tingnan* (She should stop trying to look cute. It's not good to see)

I hope the President would realize how serious the problem we are facing is before it is too late.

—EFREN G. FERNANDO,
Davao City

Welcome move

THE PLAN to space the billboards along the soon-to-be-completed North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) at equal intervals as mentioned by Al Mendoza in his column "Full Tank" (PDI, 11/17/04), would make a welcome sight to motorists passing by this busy highway.

The present billboards dotting our major thoroughfares, especially in urban areas like Metro Manila, mar the beauty of our environs.

The huge metal frames along the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) are a classic example that shows how advertising billboards ugly our verdant fields in the countryside even as they pose dangers to motorists and pedestrians alike.

Our lawmakers should enact a law that, once and for all, prohibits the indiscriminate proliferation of billboards in every nook and cranny of our towns and cities.

Advertisers should be properly guided with rules and regulations on the actual size and location of such advertising billboards.

Only then can we make traveling aesthetically enjoyable, especially in our expressways.

—PEDRO REFUERZO JR.,
6737 Taylo St.,
Makati City



The new Philips Flat TV takes you closer to the action.



For a viewing experience that's as close as you can get to the real thing, take a closer look at Philips Flat TV's with new Pixel Plus 2.



And with exclusive built in Ambilight, every experience gets better.




Exhibits and Roadshows	Duration	Venue
Ambassador Appliances	Nov. 12 - Dec. 19	Shangri-La Mall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Abenson Imus Exhibit	Nov. 19 - Dec. 18	Robinsons Imus, Imus, Cavite City
Abenson Libis Exhibit	Nov. 20 - Dec. 18	Robinsons Galleria-Eastwing, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City
Automatic Plasma Pleasures Exhibit	Dec. 13 - Dec. 26	Activity Center, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City
Flat & Slim Roadshow EDSA Shangri-La Mall	Dec. 17 - Dec. 19	Metrolink Area, EDSA Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong City
Flat & Slim Roadshow Glorietta 3	Jan. 26 - Jan. 30	Makati Mall Cupote, Lower Level between Marks & Spencer and Cinderella

www.philips.com/flattv


SEE EVERYTHING EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING


**Tanong
ng
Bayan**

 **Tuwling
Huwebes,
10:00pm**

I-lead ang inyong "featureless view" sa 2910. Piplin naman ang pinalamagang na sagot. Ang presyong inggo-linggo, leang 21" color TV set!

I-type. INDTV ang inyong sagot, chuong pangkalo, <istudyad o protinasya>, lipos (pela sa 2910. Cus-ol time: WEDNESDAY, 8 PM. Wener will be identified during the InqTV program, Tuesday, 10:00pm, on ABC.

 **Buwis sa yosi
at alak, dapat
bang taasan?**

 Nawis ang ilan sa mga sagot ninyo. Text na "pagan muna magla libi bka ko mada sa awento ng nasing nanglingling ng ginto, na pinalay sa pg bahang na mikaput kuno."

Edgardo Melayang, Makati

"ape pre palang ng gam, kagad 2 pin, kibang bndok ng den, Intel funde ng wing mtagang, comptroler at a rikku blood n pork bam!"

Angelo Santiano, Cavite

**Where
you find
the best.**

Visit us at
www.jobmarketonline.com

JobMarket
ONLINE

Now, Abenson gives you 4 raffles, great giveaways, and 0%* installment this Christmas!



100 Days of Christmas

GREAT VALUE DEALS & EVEN GREATER PRIZES!

True to Holidays' traditions, Abenson celebrates Christmas with loads of fun! This year, more than ever, Abenson has cooked up raffle promotions, freebies and easy installment plan to make appliance shopping hassle free for everyone! Shoppers can enjoy all these this Christmas!

1

Shop at Abenson and get a chance to join the Grand Holiday Raffle where you can win a Mitsubishi Adventure or 1 of 100 great appliances you have always dreamed of. Prizes who buy a minimum of P1,000 can join the raffle. EVERY P1,000 = 1 RAFFLE COUPON

2

Use your BPI Credit Card at Abenson and TRIPLE THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS! Great promotions from BPI Credit Card award its cardholders a raffle, double rewards points and triple SIP credit limit! Shop for your appliances at Abenson and enjoy these perks this Christmas Season.

3

Enjoy 0% on ALL items exclusive to Citibank cardholders and DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES of winning in the Citibank Preferred Brands raffle promotion. Every P1,000 PayLife purchase entitles you to a raffle entry, however, when you shop at Abenson, you automatically earn 2 raffle entries for every P1,000 purchase.

Great prizes at stake Mercedes-Benz C180, Fujitsu Lifebook, Sony Projection TV, Trip for Two to Hong Kong, P100,000 worth of Shell, Fuel and a whole lot more. Plus, on the Grand Draw, one lucky Citibank cardholder gets to win all 10 prizes!

4

You've shopped endlessly this year and now, VISA is giving you a chance to win back your 2004 VISA purchases or a maximum P500,000 in credit rebate. Every P500 purchase entitles you to join the raffle. Be a lucky winner when you shop at any Abenson store.

5

Stakes are high with all 4 raffles, but to make the season truly bright, we give you a Christmas giftpack on a wide selection of appliances. Enjoy this year's Christmas dinner with pasta and dessert. With Abenson, you can do just that!

6

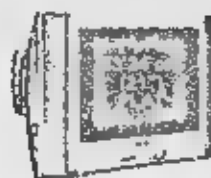
We make your appliance shopping very easy! Buy at Abenson on 0% interest installment. Video cameras, digicams, TV can be yours on easy monthly installments of up to 12 months. Moms can get kitchen partners like microwave ovens, gas ranges on interest free installment too!

*Appliances are installed upon an approved term to Abenson. BPI, Equitable, HSBC, Citibank, Metrobank, Standard Chartered & Unibank Subject to bank approval. Your provided monthly installment is based on the

ABENSON
All About Appliances.



TCL 14175
14" Colored TV AV Stereo
Speaker System
P 4,795



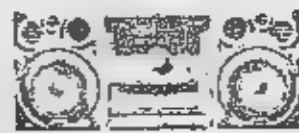
SONY HW212N60
21" MTS Stereo Speaker System
P 11,990



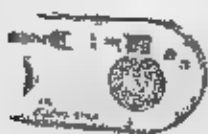
SHARP 29 VL 230S
29" Colored TV MTS Stereo
P 16,498



PHILIPS 320
DVD/VCD/CD/MP3 Playback
P 4,990
P 831.66 /mo. for 6 mos



JVC SK1
2,200 watts PMPO
VCD/CD playback
P 9,990
P 1,665.00 /mo. for 6 mos.



SONY DSC P43
4.1 Megapixel Digital Camera
P 13,999
Before P 15,999



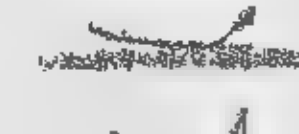
SONY TRV 460
Digital 8 Format
990x Digital & 20x Optical Zoom
P 27,999
Before P 29,999
P 4,666.50 /mo. for 6 mos.



SHARP SJ4T
5.0 cu ft Semi Automatic Dishwasher
P 7,998
P 1,333.00 /mo. for 6 mos.
FREE Christmas Giftpack



SHARP R220F
Microwave Oven
23 Liter Capacity, Manual Knobs
P 3,998



LG WS4500
Single Tub Washing Machine
4.5 kg Capacity
P 2,695



WT 76H1
Twin Tub Washing Machine
5.0 kg Capacity
P 5,995



WCRF006EA
0.5 HP Manual
Rotary Knobs
P 8,949
P 1,491.50 /mo. for 6 mos.
FREE Christmas Giftpack



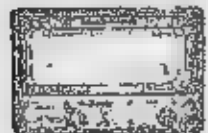
Nikon FF 18-1A
18" Floor Fan
P 885



HANABISHI The Space 16T
16" Desk Fan, Various Colors
P 598



UNION IMD 12
12" Desk Fan, Various Colors
P 495



BEST ONE AB01
Oven Toaster
P 478



HANABISHI HS3
2 Burner Gas Stove
P 495



Asahi GS448
Single Burner Gas Stove
P 358



AMERICAN HERITAGE AHCS125
Hair Dryer
P 255



HANABISHI ARC 180
10 cups Rice Cooker
P 598



kyowa GR1000
Blender
P 485



NIKKO NK1012
Coffee Maker
P 420



kyowa KW 1306
Electric Kettle
P 348



Dorrell IG 188
Electric Griller
P 995



MICROMATIC MA1020
Flat Iron
P 268

Basta't Appliance.



ABENSON

All About Appliances.

Makati - Qued 816-3991/818-8463 Market Market 886-6491 to 93 Walmart 812-1584/812-2882 • Mandaluyong - 831-5188/631-8161 Shangri-la Plaza 638-8017 to 19 St. Francis Square 633-1362 • Manila - Robinsons Ermita 536-8029/536-7914 Harrison Plaza 521-8588/69 • Marikina - Riverbanks Mall 941-5003 • Muntinlupa - Metropolis 809-8172/74 Alabang 850-8848 to 50 Fillinvest Festival Mall 850-3776/79 • Pasay - Metropoint Taft Ave. 833-7829 • Paranaque - Pearl Plaza, Tambo 851-8401 to 05 Sucat - Jaka 829-2686/88 • Pasig - Ever Ortigas 656-6543 to 47 • Quezon City - Walmart 724-2528 SM City Carpark 920-9161 to 53 Robinsons Galleria 632-9101 to 05 Center Mall Fairview 937-6911 Rustan's 911-2312/13 Commonwealth 951-8978 Circle C Mall Congressional Ave. 927-9432 Farmers 911-1071 Eastwood City Libis 687-1776/687-2373 • Las Pinas - Pampione 872-0576/77 • San Juan - Missouri Greenhills 722-1261 or 84 • Malabon - Maiabon Circle Square 285-9727 • Kalookan - Grand Central 363-5248/363-5338 Araneta Square 362-8375/362-8336 • Tayuman - Puregold Pricemart 252-6787 • Rizal - Sta. Lucia 1 Calinta 645-0402/04 Sta. Lucia 3 Calinta 681-5301 • Bulacan - Meycauayan (044) 228-2117 Valenzuela Pure Gold 277-9538/39 Walmart Floridel (044) 795-3271/7478 • Cabanatuan - NE Pacific Mall Nueva Ecija (044) 454-1481 to 84 • Cavite - Camona (046) 430-2703/520-8063 Gen. Trias (046) 419-1750 Rosano (046) 875-2448/49 Walmart Dasmarinas (048) 416-2104 Lolus (046) 515-5749 Robinsons Imus (048) 471-8020 or 30 • Laguna - Olivares Mall, Brian (049) 699-2318 Pavilion Mall, Biñan (049) 411-4510, 11 Walmart Calamba (049) 545-7035 Walmart Sta. Rosa (049) 649-1220 San Pablo (049) 562-8242 • Pampanga - Nepoma Angeles City (045) 888-9088 Dau Pure Gold (045) 892-4768/892-4295 Robinsons Mall (02) 246-8306 • Quezon - Pacific Mall, Lucena (042) 373-0443 • Balangas - Fiesta World Mall, Lipa City (043) 404-1651 Bay City Mall, Batangas City (043) 723-6790/723-0934 • Bicol - LCC Mall, Legaspi (052) 480-7949 Pacific Mall, Legaspi (052) 820-0862/820-4086 LCC Metro Naga (054) 473-8003

Printed period: October 01-December 31, 2004

Per DTI NCR permit no. 2215 Series 2005

INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandyral
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Amid 'meningo' scare, TB spreads

By Maurica Malanes
Baguio City

MENINGOCOCCEMIA, the meningitis strain that health authorities say is an old disease that media have bestowed "stardom status," should not distract the public from being vigilant against other creeping deadly diseases, such as tuberculosis or TB, say health experts.

From Marcelo H. del Pilar of the Propaganda Movement to Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon, tuberculosis has remained

one of the top killers in the Philippines, now claiming the life of at least one Filipino every minute, says Dr. Charles Cheng, president of the

Baguio AIDS Watch Council (Awac). Awac is a group of private and government health experts and advocates monitoring AIDS.

TB, Cheng says, is also an urgent concern of Awac because most persons with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) die of secondary infections such as TB and pneumonia.

The TB bacteria (*Tubercle bacillus*) is still so widespread that 70 percent of Filipinos have them, says Dr. Celis Flor Brillantes of the Baguio health department's social

hygiene clinic. "This means the TB bacteria can attack a person once his immune system weakens."

TB strikes people of all ages but is more common among the elderly. Other people at greater risk of getting tuberculosis are those with weakened immune system, such as people with AIDS and those malnourished.

This has prompted private and government health experts to include TB in their information campaign about AIDS, which, as the World Health Organization

initiated, is again the focus of World AIDS Month this month.

According to Cheng, a person with AIDS can have a better chance of prolonging his life, thus making his remaining years productive, if he is not infected with TB.

Vaccine

In many parts of the world, health experts have used a vaccine called BCG (*Bacillus Calmette-Guerin*), which is given to newly delivered infants, to treat TB. But the vaccine, say medical reports, is not always effective, especially among certain populations, and some TB strains have become resistant to drugs.

In the Philippines, TB vaccines are delivered in hospitals, which make it a standard procedure to administer the BCG vaccine to newborns, says Cheng. He says more rural villages, are delivered in homes.

Congested homes and schools, which are common in the country, also help spread the TB bacteria, says Cheng.

He cites how TB-infected grandparents live with children and grandchildren in cramped dwellings. In many schools, as many as 70 students are packed in a classroom, making it easier for the bacteria to spread, he says.

"And sad to say many Filipinos still have to learn not to spit anywhere," he said.

It takes six hours under direct sunlight for the TB bacteria to die. Thus, it takes longer for the bacteria to die

under damp and dark areas, and the worst thing is the bacteria can mix with dust, which can be transmitted through the air, says Cheng.

"Proper sanitation and hygiene plus good nutrition can help a lot in preventing tuberculosis but we need to educate and reeducate people about all these," he said.

Treatment

Tuberculosis can be treated through a three- to six-month medication. But the problem is some Filipinos, who are too poor to afford the medication, do not complete the required duration of treatment. This worsens the disease and makes it more resistant to drugs, says Cheng.

The disease then becomes harder and costlier to treat, requiring at least P250,000 worth of more potent second-line drugs, he says.

The public is advised to be aware of the symptoms of tuberculosis, including a lingering cough that is usually not severe and often mistaken for a lingering cold.

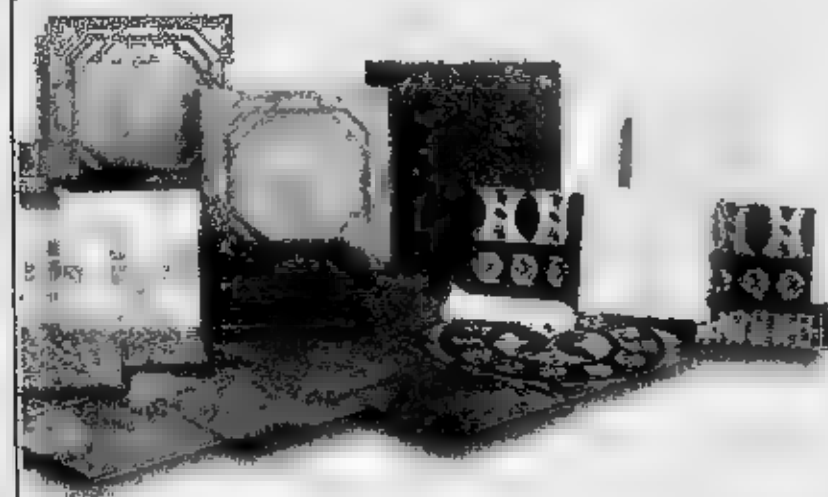
Coughing up a cheese-like material called sputum, which is mixed with mucus, is the most common early symptoms of tuberculosis.

If blood vessels in the lungs are damaged, an infected person may have blood in the sputum. In advanced stages, the patient may expel large quantities of blood.

Other symptoms of advanced tuberculosis are chest pain, fever, sweating at night, fatigue, weight loss and loss of appetite.

Imagine these in your home.
And they're FREE!

Money Back
Raffle



You can win a maximum
prize refund of
P100,000 every week!

- For every P1,000 purchase, you get a raffle coupon. Fill out and drop in drop boxes at Wilcon. Keep your sales invoice.
- There will be one winner per draw. The prize is a refund of purchases made at Wilcon — a maximum of P100,000 in cash.
- Raffle draws will be every Sunday, 10:00 AM, starting October 3, 2004 until January 2, 2005. These will be held at the Wilcon Builders' Depot Main Office in Libis, Quezon City.
- Promo begins on September 24, 2004. It ends on January 1, 2005 in Metro Manila and December 31, 2004 in Davao.

See flyers for details.



E-mail: wilcon@wilcon.com.ph • Website: wilcon.com.ph

WILCON BUILDERS' DEPOT:

Libis 90 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugon Norte, Libis, QC (formerly Unilab)
Trunkline: 634-8387 / Tel: 634-8361 to 66 / Fax: 633-8331
Alabang 8003 Real St., Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Pintas City (across Toyota Alabang)
Trunkline: 809-6108 / Tel: 809-7655, 809-8481, 809-9108, 772-0312 to 14
Fax: 772-0311, 772-0315
Balintawak 1274 EDSA, Balintawak, QC (before Dial, Limnaco)
Trunkline: 382-8521 / Tel: 362-4531, 369-8268 to 83
Pasong Tamo 2242 Pasong Tamo, Makati City (beside Cityland Tower, in front of Don Bosco Chapel) - Tel: 883-3120, 883-3127, 883-3142, 883-3172 / Fax: 883-3108



Build anything. We have everything.

WILCON BUILDERS' SUPPLY:

Munoz 1084 EDSA, QC - 826-1504, 821-3342
Quezon Ave. QC 712-3673
Las Pintas Las Pintas City - 807-8233
Ortigas 225 EDSA, East Greenfield - 727-8084
Pasay EDSA, Pasay City - 832-0242
Quirino QC - 835-9653
Libis QC - 837-6623
Mindanao Ave., QC - 456-8566
Davao Matina, Davao City - (082) 287-9552

From 'basi' taster to Baguio mayor

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

BASI is that quintessential Ilocano home brew

Made from fermented sugarcane juice and flavored with local tree bark and berries, basi is deceptively sweet. You have a fine time drinking it but once you get up, the world will literally revolve around you.

Till the next morning, you know what "punch drunk" feels and means. The Ilocanos cherish their basi so much that when the Spaniards decided to impose monopoly on liquor in September 1807, the small town of Piddig in Ilocos Norte fought with bamboo spears, bows and arrows and scythes against the Spaniards, and surprisingly won.

The revolt almost reached Vigan but was eventually stopped after two weeks.

Although the Igorots have mastered the art of brewing basi, many Ilocano towns boast that they make the definitive basi.

But in Baguio City, that glory would go to nearby Naguilan and Aringay towns in La Union. Ilocanos getting married in Baguio would have someone dig up a jar of basi from Naguilan and bring it to the city.

In the 1930s, a young boy from Aringay had the enviable task of being a basi taster.

"When I was young, our family made basi. Sometimes we had 100 jars. When it came to tasting... I was the taster," said Baguio Mayor Brulio Yaranon during a recent round-table meeting with the Inquirer Northern Luzon Bureau.

Yaranon, the eldest among five boys and a girl, would taste from the 100 jars and discern which had gone sour. Those that turned sour were dug up and removed and packaged as Ilocano vinegar, the local (and very much cheaper) version of balsamic vinegar.

"I used to taste as many as 60 jars. Of course, I just tasted it with my tongue," he said.

When the basi is sweet, the jar is re-covered with banana leaves and "cemented" with wet ash and buried from six months to a year, Yaranon said.

"We had some land devoted to sugarcane. We had this carabao-drawn mill every harvest time," he said. The cane was manually fed into the mill and the resulting juice was boiled. Yeast from rice flour was then added,



YARANON VINCENT CARRERA

People looking for the inner fire inside the 77-year-old Yaranon can stop right there. This is the man who had ingested basi at an age when we were still prohibited from drinking soft drinks. Maybe this is the same fire that catapulted him to become the mayor of the oldest city in the country.

Don Quixote

He was the Don Quixote bent on fighting formidable windmills like corruption, patronage politics and moral degeneration and he slew them or is still trying to.

Yaranon was known more as "Judge," having been a respectable La Union judge for a long time. He succeeded his wife Lilia as councilor and was known as the "fiscalizer" during his one term.

He was not given a chance when he ran for mayor but with a campaign fund of only P300,000, he was able to swamp his rivals.

His age was made an issue against him and he countered by attending as many sorties as possible. In one sortie we attended, at the Irian garbage dump, his rival, who was the guest speaker, rushed out after he talked, probably overpowered by the smell. But Yaranon stayed on and even ate there.

As it turned out, one of his secrets to long life is literally holding his breath.

"(We need) plenty of oxygen. I hold my breath for five seconds, 10, 50 till a minute. The purpose of that is to keep the tissue elastic. As one gets older, he needs a lot of oxygen actually. Oxygen is the only element that rejuvenates the body cells. You practically retard the aging process," he said.

"My blood pressure is 90 over 60. My blood sugar is normal. I don't have arthritis," he said.

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartments
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: lnq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Laguna City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: lnq_bldco@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 223-0348/223-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: lnq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Me-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082) 244-1771
E-mail: lnq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback (Inquirer with name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Logging syndicate tagged in rape of Sierra Madre

LUCENA CITY—A Quezon official has revealed the existence of an illegal logging syndicate based in Mauban town, which, he said, had been responsible for the denudation of the Sierra Madre in Isabela, Cagayan and Aurora.

"Ask any logger in northern Luzon who's the big-time group in the illegal logging trade in the area and they would surely point to the Mauban Boys. They are the biggest syndicate of illegal loggers operating in Sierra Madre in that part of Luzon," Quezon board member Eladio Pasamba, also a native of Mauban, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said the so-called "Mauban Boys" had been regularly hauling logs from northern Luzon to Mauban, passing through the Pacific Ocean.

Pasamba said the illegal cargo is loaded in barges and always escorted by unscrupulous elements from the maritime police and the naval force.

Mauban, some 157 km east south-east of Manila, is at the mid-section of the eastern coast of the province. On its north lies the tip of the Sierra Madre.

The east side of the municipality opens to Lamon Bay and further east, to the Pacific Ocean.

Pasamba, a lawyer and accountant, declined to identify who composed the group, saying that different government agencies knew their names.

"The members of Mauban Boys are all popular in our town. Lots of my town mates have become millionaires from (the) logging business, legal and illegal," he said.

But he said illegal loggers from his town only operate in northern Luzon.

He said the recent raid on at least six sawmills in the town was a step in the right direction.

"Those sawmills were owned by some of the Mauban Boys. But there were still

R&A

IMMIGRATION SOLUTIONS BY REEVES & ASSOCIATES

24 Years Of Excellent Service To The Business & Immigrant Communities



ROBERT L. REEVES
Attorney & Board Certified Specialist
Immigration & Nationality Law (USA)

- R&A represents hundreds of Hospitals in California and throughout the U.S. that have immediate RN & PT openings
- Devoted exclusively to the practice of immigration & nationality law
- Successfully immigrated more than 16,000 Filipino families
- Telephone or Tele-video conference with an immigration expert
- Case Information System allowing clients on-line access to their files 24 hours a day
- R&A is the firm that other attorneys send their clients when their cases are too difficult or complicated
- R&A is one of the largest, oldest and most trusted immigration firms in the United States

Call (02) 759-6777

YOU DESERVE TO BE REPRESENTED BY THE VERY BEST

• PASADENA • SAN FRANCISCO • BEIJING • MANILA •

www.rreeves.com

E-mail: rrphil@rreeves.com

SEIKO



MORE THAN ANYTHING.

IT'S YOUR WATCH THAT SHOWS YOUR REFINEMENT



ARCTURA
KINETIC
CHRONOMETER

POWERED BY THE MOVEMENT OF YOUR BODY.
QUARTZ ACCURACY. NO BATTERY CHARGE.
SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL. SEE THROUGH CASEBACK.

www.seikowatches.com/asia

Always ask for a warranty card
FREE CHECK-UP
Seiko Service Center
Exclusive quality service w/ longest warranty

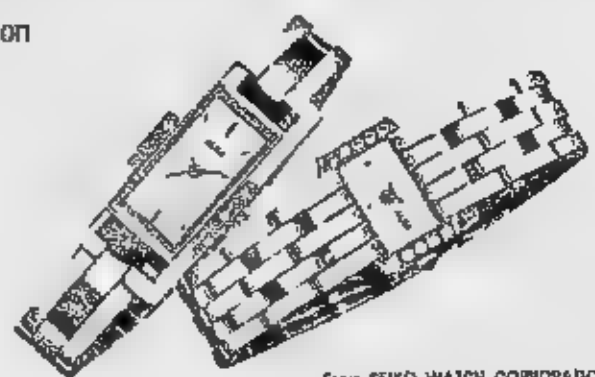
THE BEST SERVICE FOR SEIKO & ALBA WATCHES AT THESE SEIKO SERVICE CENTERS

• **MANILA** Nictor Bldg. Cor. Taft & Quirino Ave., Manila Tel. (632) 523-8576 • **MAKATI** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center across Bank of P.I. Park Square 1 Tel. (632) 832-8302 • **LAS PIÑAS** G/F SM Southmall Supermarket Level, Las Piñas Tel. (632) 806-6553 • **SM NORTH EDSA** 2/F SM City Main Bldg. North EDSA C.C. Tel. (632) 929-3097 • **NEW FARMER'S PLAZA** Lower Grd. Fl., Food Court Level New Farmer's Plaza, Cubao Tel. (632) 913-1808 • **BACOR** G/F SM City Bacoor, Aginaldo Hi-Way, Bacoor, Cavite Tel. (046) 970-4978 • **COLONADE CEBU** J Rodriguez Bldg. Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City Tel. (032) 253-6938 • **SM CITY CEBU** Lower Grd. Fl. SM City-Cebu, North Redemation, Cebu City Tel. (032) 232-0782 • **DAVAO** Door 4, Ralael Suarez Bldg. C.M. Recto St. Davao City (082) 227-8804

Elegant design in the spirit of today's fashion

ALBA
YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS

Available at any SEIKO Service Center and



From SEIKO WATCH CORPORATION



FAREWELL PRAYER

A Malaysian navy man offers prayers before departing the port of Zamboanga City after a week-long naval exercise with Philippine navy personnel.

3 more cultists charged with Cebu lawyer's slay

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas (CIDG 7) has charged three more members of the cult group Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) with involvement in the killing of human rights lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana Yongco.

The CIDG 7 filed at the Cebu City prosecutor's office a murder case against Nestor Carrol, MSgt. Heracleo Ralleston and Eddie Ardita. All three were tagged as conspirators of Michel Pavila, also a PBMA member and the alleged killer of Yongco.

The PBMA is headed by Ruben Ecleo Jr., the cult group's so-called "supreme master."

Yongco was the private prosecutor of the parricide case against Ecleo, who stands accused of killing his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo in 2002.

A separate murder case has already been filed against Pavila after four eyewitnesses, including a 10-year-old girl, positively identified him as the gunman. His case is pending before the Department of Justice for preliminary investigation.

In this recent development, at least three witnesses identified Carrol, Ralleston and Ardita as the ones they saw together with

Pavila on Oct. 11, the day Yongco was shot to death inside her law office in Barangay Zapatera.

CIDG officials said the witnesses identified Carrol as the driver of the red motorcycle used by Pavila, Ardita and Ralleston allegedly acted as "lookouts" of Pavila.

The three witnesses went voluntarily to the CIDG 7 on Dec. 3 and 4 after they heard of the arrest of eight PBMA members in Barangay Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City.

Carrol and Ralleston were among the eight suspects who were arrested on Dec. 3 after they were caught at a checkpoint in Barangay Mactan in possession of several high-powered firearms, handguns, ammunition and explosives.

Cases of illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives were filed against the eight suspects before the Municipal Trial Court in Cities and Regional Trial Court in Lapu-Lapu City.

Carrol and Ralleston were arrested anew on Dec. 8 by the CIDG after witnesses executed their sworn statements officially implicating them in the Yongco murder case.

Ardita, 25, was arrested on Dec. 3 after he was charged with car theft.

CIDG officials said the other red motorcycle used as a getaway vehicle in the Yongco murder was recovered from Ardita.

Marines kill 2 Abu Sayyaf suspects

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Marines killed at least two suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits and arrested two others during a raid in Campo Islam in Barangay Lower Calarian here on Tuesday morning.

Only one of the slain suspects had been identified. Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, Southern Command chief, identified the slain suspect as Hairi Alm, 46.

He said the arrested suspects were Sappi Baladji and Abdurassim Alm, younger brother of slain suspect Hairi.

Braganza said four other suspects managed to escape when the raiding team swooped down on a house in Campo Islam around 5:45 a.m.

He said the Marines were also able to recover two grenades and two .22 Beretta pistols.

"We will send the photos of the arrested suspects to Manila so that former hostages could confirm their identities," Braganza said.

But the wife of the slain suspect said he was an innocent civilian.

The wife told a local television station that her husband was a fish vendor at the Mercado Extension in the downtown area.

On Dec. 8, a suspected Abu Sayyaf sub-leader involved in the 2001 siege of Lamitan was arrested in Sumisip, Basilan.

Military intelligence agents, backed by elements of the 103rd Infantry Brigade, raided the house of Quirino Manajil Lambungan alias Asmalul in Limbo Candilis Village and arrested the suspect.

Braganza said Lambungan was with the Abu Sayyaf group that attacked the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital in June 2001 and snatched several people including nurses Reina Makonzo, Sheila Tabunag and Edibora Yap.

Yap was later killed, along with American hostage Martin Burnham, during a botched military rescue operation in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte.

Braganza said military achievements such as the arrest of Lambungan have been contributing a lot to efforts against the Abu Sayyaf.

On Dec. 4, a suspected Abu Sayyaf bandit was killed while four others were arrested in a raid in Barangay Camuno Nuevo here.

The raid was conducted by members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team, Task Force Zamboanga and the police after a week of surveillance.

Killed was Mahan Badjar alias Abu Muslim, who allegedly resisted arrest. Troy Makolim, with a report from Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FPJ election protest lives on, say lawyers

From page A1

be Loren because she has interest in the case," he said.

According to Brillantes, public interest requires that the election protest continue in order to clear up once and for all any doubt as to the real winner of the May presidential election.

Besides Legarda, the other party who may substitute for Poe in pursuing the protest is Vice President Noli de Castro because either of them could benefit if it prospers and Ms Arroyo is ousted, Brillantes said, adding:

"But, of course, we do not expect him (De Castro) to do that."

Legarda had also filed an election protest against De Castro.

Consensus, cost

Brillantes said leaders of the opposition, Poe's family and Legarda would have to reach an agreement on what action to take.

"There will have to be a consensus among our political leaders whether to continue with the protest. There is also the family factor and, of course, Legarda's consent. We have to consider the finances here," he said.

Brillantes said that while Poe had received financial contributions for his election protest, Legarda would have to decide whether she would take on the process that could cost P50 million.

"That is not a small amount, and we have to know if she can afford it," he said. "We will also have to consider the feelings of Poe's family and the support of the people."

Brillantes said he had spoken with opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. about the matter.

Will of electorate

He said he had 30 days to inform the Supreme Court if the opposition would continue with the case and who would substitute for Poe.

Citing the high court ruling in the case of Jimmy de Castro vs the Commission on Elections (1997), Chavez said: "While an incumbent holding a public office relinquishes his post upon his death because his position is personal to the public office, an electoral contest is imbued



WAITING outside the Arlington funeral parlor where FPJ's remains were brought, children carry huge posters that recall his brief and all too unhappy foray into politics.

with paramount public interest and it does not involve merely conflicting private aspirations."

He said the purpose of an election protest was "to find out the will of the

electorate."

"It is not correct to say that the death of FPJ renders his electoral protest moot and academic," Chavez said. "As a matter of fact, it survives because the Supreme



PRESIDENTIAL bet Poe listening to a political ally during the hectic, three-month campaign.

Court said so in the case of De Castro and the Comelec."

Chavez said Vice President De Castro would succeed Ms Arroyo should the PET declare Poe winner of the May presidential election.

He said that if both Poe and Legarda were declared winners, the latter would become the new President.

Reset to next year

Chavez also predicted that Poe's death would usher the "return of the days of brinkmanship of the Filipino people," who, he said, were now "trottering between two edges."

The PET has reset to early next year the hearing on the oral arguments on Poe's election protest.

Court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. said the tribunal made the decision after Poe's lawyer Sixto Brillantes and Ms Arroyo's lawyer Romulo Macalintal sought last Thursday a postponement of the hearing.

The PET was scheduled to hear yesterday the oral arguments on Ms Arroyo's

"affirmative defenses" against Poe's allegations that she cheated him in the May 10 election.

Brillantes said the Poe camp had asked that the hearing be reset because yesterday was the court's last working day preparatory to a judicial recess until early next month.

Macalintal said he and Brillantes filed a joint manifestation seeking a postponement of the hearing as early as Dec. 9 without knowing that Poe would get sick and even die.

"We just did not want to be arguing during the Christmas season," Macalintal said.

Among the issues that will be deliberated on when the legal battle resumes is Poe's citizenship.

Ms Arroyo had questioned Poe's legal standing to file an election protest, claiming that the Supreme Court had not categorically ruled that the actor was a natural-born Filipino citizen.

She had also asked the PET to dismiss the protest on grounds of insufficiency in form and substance.

Poe asked the tribunal on July 23 to declare him the rightful winner in the May election. He alleged that Ms Arroyo cheated in the election returns from 10,554 precincts in seven provinces, one city and seven municipalities, and in the ballot results from 118,339 precincts in 42 cities and provinces.

In turn, Ms Arroyo questioned the results from around 20,000 precincts in Nueva Ecija, Rizal, Quezon, South Cotabato, Northern Samar and Ilocos Norte.

Family decision

As far as Malacañang is concerned, Poe's family, and not his political allies, should make the call on whether his election protest should be continued, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said in a phone interview.

Defensor, Ms Arroyo's campaign spokesperson, also said the Palace would have no problem if Poe's family decided to push through with the protest: "It's their prerogative."

But he appealed to Poe's political supporters not to capitalize on the actor's passing for political ends. With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendano and Juliet Labog-Javellana

HANDYCAM

**PERFECT CLARITY.
FOR THOSE PERFECT MOMENTS.**

SONY.

DCR-HC40

Capture life's precious moments with the Sony Handycam - DCR-HC40. All thanks to the imaging perfection of the Mega Pixel Engine. With an array of advanced technologies, the Mega Pixel Engine features an Advanced HAD CCD utilizing High Resolution Technology and specialized Noise Reduction Filters. Combined with the Carl Zeiss Lens, your Handycam always delivers video and stills with superb clarity, contrast and color. Be mesmerized by its vivid image brilliance and true-to-life color saturation on even the finest details, as it rewards you with unsurpassed picture quality. The Sony Handycam. Because perfect moments deserve perfect clarity.

DCR-HC1000
• CCD for superior color reproduction
• Carl Zeiss T* lens
• Mega Pixel Engine
• Advanced HAD
• 5.1 channel surround sound DVD movie

DCR-PC360
• Carl Zeiss T* lens
• 3.0 Mega Pixel CCD
• Sliding battery
• Touch Panel Hybrid LCD
• Smooth Interval Recording
• 3D GUI

DCR-DV522E
• Records on 8cm
• Mega Pixel CCD
• Mega Pixel Engine
• Thermalized video

DCR-PC108
• Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
• Super NightShot
• Easy Handycam
• 10 Mega Pixel CCD
• Advanced HAD
• CCD image
• 10X Optical Zoom
• Digital Still

DCR-PC108
• Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
• 20x / 20x Digital
• Easy Handycam
• 10 Mega Pixel CCD
• Advanced HAD
• CCD image
• 10X Optical Zoom
• Digital Still

DCR-HC40
• Professional Quality
• Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
• Advanced HAD
• 10X Optical Zoom
• Super NightShot

DCR-HC40
• Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
• 20x / 20x Digital
• Easy Handycam
• 10 Mega Pixel CCD
• Advanced HAD
• CCD image
• 10X Optical Zoom
• Digital Still

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in Video Light
• Analog / Digital Signal Conversion

DCR-TRV460
• Digital (Analog Playback Compatibility)
• 48x / 48x Digital Zoom (20x Optical Zoom)
• USB Streaming
• Built-in

Doc: He went gently into the night

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE NEUROLOGIST who attended to Fernando Poe Jr. while he lay in a coma at St. Luke's Medical Center said the movie actor went away gently.

"He died peacefully," Dr. Abdias Aquino told the Inquirer.

But Aquino said he would only talk about Poe's last hours "when all the emotions have died down."

He said that Poe's wife, Susan Rocas, and other relatives had allowed him to talk about the issue but that he decided not to say anything at length out of respect for the family.

While the doctor agreed that the public had a right to know what really happened to the movie idol, he admitted that he still felt uneasy talking about it.

"It's still fresh you know," he said. "Let them mourn. It's better to let the emotions die down first. I already asked their permission and they agreed. But I still feel it's not yet time (to talk about it). I will talk about it maybe after the burial."

Aquino, a friend of Poe's family,

said he was not aware of any medical record of Poe in the hospital.

On the rumor that Poe was "clinically dead" even before the announcement of his death, Aquino said it was difficult to say so.

Pressed to elaborate, Aquino said that Sen. Juan Flavier's interpretation of the first medical bulletin issued by the hospital and as printed in the Inquirer was "close to what had happened to him."

Aquino said it would have been too difficult for Poe to survive his condition, citing only a few cases of survival.

Aquino, however, dismissed speculation that Poe's condition was aggravated by the actor's reputed drinking habits, saying it had nothing to do with his illness.

"There have been many speculations. It's not fair to the patient. I don't think that (drinking) is related," he said.

The Inquirer tried to get a copy of Poe's death certificate from the hospital but was told that the policy was to release the death certificate only to the family members or relatives of the patient.

FPJ wake at Sto. Domingo

THE STO. DOMINGO Church in Quezon City has allowed the family of Fernando Poe Jr. to use the Mortuary of Saint Martin for the wake for the late movie actor.

The mortuary, which is located on the right side of the church and is separated by doors from the main chapel, can hold only around 40 people.

The main chapel could not be used for Poe's wake because the nine-day Simbang Gabi starts today and a wedding is scheduled at the chapel on Dec. 16, according to Mario Ambiong of the Sto. Domingo information office.

He said the church, which can accommodate up to 30,000 people standing even outside on the courtyard, usually overflows with attendees who fulfill the nine-day dawn Mass. **Blanche S. Rivera**

GMA faces uphill fight to gain people's trust—Pulse Asia poll

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's prospects appear bleak.

The millions of people who voted for Fernando Poe Jr. still believe she cheated her way to victory in May, and her failure to make much progress on reform since then has further shaken trust in her, said Felipe Miranda, head of the polling firm Pulse Asia.

"I think she has exhausted quite a lot of the political capital that normally, Filipinos would extend to anyone who is a new president. It is not so easy for the public to get over [its] feelings of anger, frustration and distrust in the administration," Miranda said.

He also said a new Pulse Asia survey had found that

trust in Ms Arroyo's administration had for the first time fallen below that in the administration of her disgraced predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

But the opposition, which was split by Poe's candidacy, has yet to reunite and

mount a coherent challenge to Ms Arroyo.

That, and the realization among many Filipinos that reform is necessary, should give her a last chance to push ahead with reforms in the next six months without risking her job, said analyst Ramon Casiple.

"She has to be a leader, she has to be out there in front," Casiple said. "If she doesn't do that, then her popularity slide would increase and she would have a very difficult year ahead of her."

Reuters.

Susan tells fans: You are part of our lives

From page A1

of our lives. Now, you are still with me," she said.

At around 4 p.m. yesterday, the bereaved family allowed the viewing of Poe's remains at the Arlington East Plaza, abandoning the previous plan to make the wake a private affair.

Rocas said she promised not to begrudge his fans and "all those who had been a part of his life" their presence at the wake.

Baby Erica, a niece of the late movie idol, said the family decided to let the fans in because of how hot it had become outside. The fast swelling crowd also made the decision easier to make.

Erica said the family chose to continue the wake at Sto. Domingo Church on Quezon Avenue to accommodate more people. She said the family also did not want to add to the traffic congestion.

"Mrs. Poe remembers how Mr. Poe loved the people," she said.

Marian devotee

Col. Raul Medina said an estimated crowd of 2,500-3,000 squeezed through the gates to reach the line outside the chapel.

The viewing time was very brief, but it was enough for some of the fans. The others, however, braved the crowd again and lined up a second, even a third, time.

The small chapel had a blue carpet leading to the half-open casket alongside which sat a basket of flowers.

The body was dressed in a black suit—Poe's favorite, according to his wife—and a blue tie with white polka dots that was personally chosen by

the couple's daughter, Mary Grace Llamanzares.

"Ronnie was a Marian devotee, and blue is a Marian color," said Rocas. She said blue in all its varying tints happened to be his favorite color, too.

She added that Poe's fans could watch his movies over and over again, but that this was their last chance to see him.

All welcome

Rocas said all visitors were welcome to the wake for her husband.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye came as the representative of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The President wants to send her condolences to Susan Rocas and her family. Malacañang Masses starting today will be dedicated for Poe's intentions," Bunye said, adding:

"We were received well by the family. Susan thanked the President for the rosary and the letter that she sent while FPJ was in the hospital."

Rocas later said the rosary and letter were handed to her by Speaker Jose de Venecia's wife, Gina.

"The President acknowledges FPJ as a great Filipino. The respect for [him] as a kind and generous person will always be there," Bunye said.

He said he was there to check the schedule of the interment and see whether Ms Arroyo could personally visit.

Rocas said the wake would be held until Dec. 22 at Sto. Domingo Church.

Poe will be buried at the North Cemetery in Manila beside his parents and brother.

Amazing grace

Rocas was a picture of amazing grace as Poe lay dying, according to

his running mate in the May presidential election.

"In all the three days that I was with her in the hospital, she was always calm and gracious," former Sen. Loren Legarda said of Rocas. "She's an amazing woman, although she was very, very sad."

The actress, Jesusa Sonora-Poe in real life, was also a calming presence during Poe's brief confinement at the Neuro-Intensive Care Unit of the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City. Legarda had earlier brought the miraculous image of Our Lady of Manaoag to Poe's bedside.

By her account, Rocas received the image and invited her to pray. Afterwards, she said, Rocas embraced her tightly.

"We didn't talk about Ronnie's medical condition," Legarda said. "We simply comforted each other. She was strong and understanding and was not blaming anyone or anything. Such a picture of amazing grace."

Composure

At Arlington East, Rocas maintained the composure that helped get her grieving family and friends through the initial shock of Poe's stroke and his passing.

Security was extremely tight at the funeral home, and the guards kept fans and even members of the media at bay, to allow the family as much privacy as possible. But the actress wrote the guards a note to let her friends in: "To whom it may concern: Kindly allow my friends Peter and Luisa Cagahangan to enter the church and the wake as they are my very good friends. Thank you, Susan Rocas." With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

GMA wreath torched by Poe diehards

From page A1

the flowers.

"Ang kapul mo, ang kapul mo (How shameless you are)," about a dozen supporters chanted as they destroyed the wreath on the church yard.

Ms Arroyo had also wanted to visit Poe while he was lying in a coma on Sunday morning at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City but she was reportedly rebuffed by the movie actor's relatives.

A Malacañang source said Ms Macapagal had attempted several times to be allowed to visit Poe beginning on Sunday morning, just hours after he suffered a massive stroke. But Poe's relatives politely turned down her requests, saying it was not the right time.

The President persisted and even asked to be allowed to attend Poe's wake at Arlington Chapels in Pasig City, according to the source. But Poe's relatives still said no, prompting the President to just send a representative.

Warning

In a news conference, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago warned that Poe's supporters were likely to take his death hard and that "professional saboteurs" could in turn take advantage of their grief.

She said the big groups that had gathered at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City to keep vigil "should be an indication of how many of his committed followers are going to be emotionally distressed by his death."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino

Pimentel Jr. said there would be an "initial outpouring" of "grief and resentment" against the Arroyo administration because of the perception that Poe was "cheated of the presidency."

"I hope that the botheads in the ranks of the opposition will not prevail, that reason will dissipate the tensions as the days go by," Pimentel told reporters.

Pimentel also advised Ms Arroyo against attending the wake for Poe: "I suppose the tension is quite high at this stage. Maybe it would be wiser for her not to go."

Bunye as representative

Sent to the Arlington chapels to convey her condolences was Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Asked if Ms Arroyo would go to Poe's wake, Bunye said "I'm sure the President will send a representative at this time and we will see what the arrangements are at some later time."

He denied that Ms Arroyo was being deterred by angry supporters of Poe from going to the hospital and later the wake.

"No, no. The President is very sincerely condoling with the family but just right now we don't know what the preparations are," Bunye said.

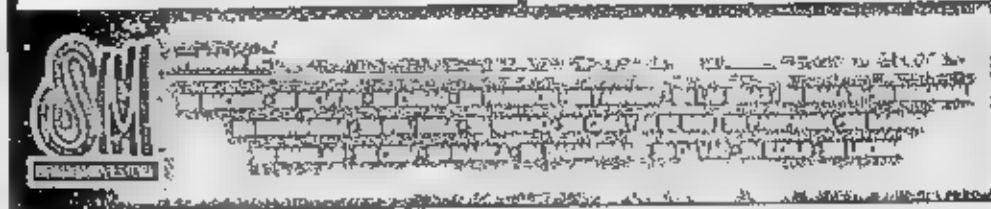
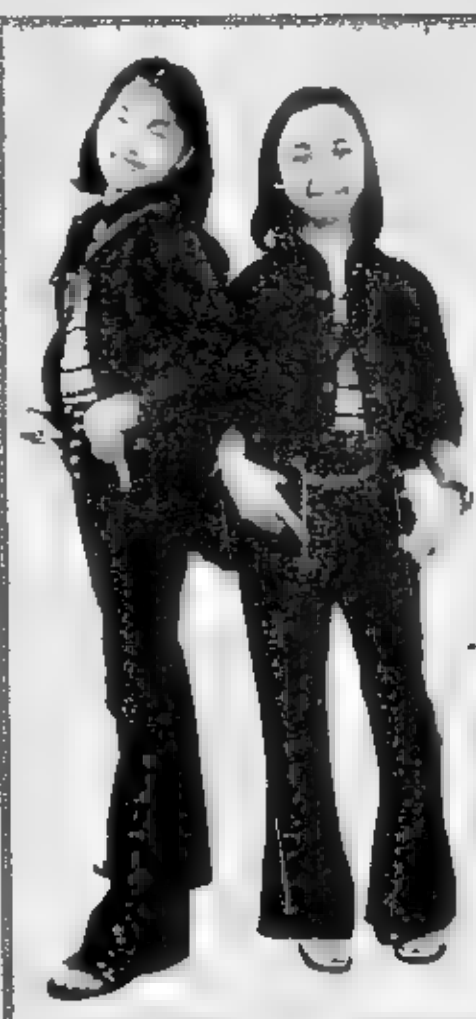
In a statement issued hours after Poe was declared dead, Ms Arroyo said: "I condole with his wife and family and I shall always pray for his eternal rest in the hands of God."

A worthy adversary

Ms Arroyo said the 3 p.m. daily Mass at the Malacañang Chapel, which she attends, will be said for Poe.

"Fernando Poe Jr. was a good man, a worthy adversary in politics and a great Filipino," she said.

The President said she prayed hard for Poe's life since the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino's standard-bearer fell into a coma on Saturday.



A Commitment...

Then and after a year of committed service, Clara International keeps the promise to a more beautiful YOU!

In this spirit of giving, Clara International gives you a special offer this Christmas season

BUY 1
TAKE 1

Upon enrollment on selected
FACE AND BODY MACHINE
TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Promo extended until
December 23, 2004*

CLARA
International
Since 1977

Where beauty begins... Naturally.

Unit 1-S, 2nd Flr., Sunshin Blvd. Plaza,
1328 Quezon Ave. Cor Sol Santiago, Q.C., Phils.
Phone: (632) 374-0874 374-6154 Telefax: (632)
Sweden Switzerland USA Macapagal China S



RP mourns death of FPJ from north to south

From page A1

were tears in my eyes until later. I did not know that I was crying," Ramallosa said.

Even the Muslims in Quiapo are walking slowly "as if carrying a heavy heart."

Many were in tears as thousands of ordinary Filipinos filed past the metallic, maroon coffin where their long lay in his favorite suit.

Some of those who came to view Poe's remains at the Arlington chapel in Pasig City were in slippers. Others looked unwashed.

Poe, 65, was in a black suit and a blue tie with white polka dots.

Outside the chapel, several people sat on the pavement and on the grass, weeping and consoling each other.

Most of the fans had come from cities in Metro Manila. Others had arrived by jeep, some by tricycle, still others just walked.

His remains were to be transferred later last night to the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City.

The actor is to be buried on Dec. 22 but no decision has been reached on where, said Rep. Francis Escudero, Poe's spokesperson during the May presidential election campaign. Earlier plans to bury Poe at the La Loma Cemetery where his father, Fernando Poe Sr., are not final, he said.

At Sto. Domingo Church, FPJ's coffin was to be placed at the right corner, said actor Rex Cortez, chair of the National Coordinating Center for (Poe) Volunteers.

As early as 6 p.m., long before the coffin was to arrive, hundreds of people had begun gathering in the church grounds.

Cortez said everything had been taken care of, including liturgical services and the flow of an expected tens of thousands of people who would come to view Poe's remains.

A trailer van which Poe used when he was shooting films will be the temporary quarters of the Poe family, according to Cortez.



VARIATIONS on a theme: Mourning women prostrates herself before the photo of FPJ upon learning that he had passed away.

"There will be a Mass and after that it will be open to the public," Cortez said.

In Congress, a senator urged that the man simply called FPJ be conferred the National Artist award.

News of Poe's illness and death gripped a nation where movie heroics offer a rare diversion from dire poverty.

President Macapagal-Arroyo mourned his death, saying: "Fernando Poe Jr. was a good man, a worthy adversary in politics and a great Filipino."

The United States, through its embassy in Manila, also offered its condolences.

"Mr. Poe will be remembered with great fondness as much for his singular role as the 'Da King' of Philippine cinema as for his entry into the political arena as a presidential candidate," the embassy said in a statement.

Most beloved son

"We extend our deepest condolences to his widow, his family, and friends as well as to his many movie fans and political supporters in their hour of loss."

San Carlos City mourned its most beloved son as residents began hanging black ribbons from

"This is just our way of paying tribute to him," said Clarence Cagampang, chair of Barangay Palaris in the city proper.

Poe's late father, Fernando Sr., was a native of this city.

L. V. Delgado closed her restaurant in Novaliches, Quezon City, and rented a jeep to go to the chapel, where Poe's remains were temporarily laid. Some 15 people—the restaurant's crew—went with her.

"We are all loyal fans. We are all pro-FPJ," she said. Her cook brought a photo of Poe with him.

Today, Cordillera leaders will perform a *cañao* (ritual feast) for the late actor. The ritual involves the butchering of pigs.

"We want his soul to be appeased," said community leader Nicolas Cawed, referring to the political divisions that fractured the country after the May elections. "We also want that we will not be visited by bad luck."

Never mind that Poe's wake

will be held in a Catholic enclave, the Sto. Domingo Church.

Heavy Muslim hearts

Several Muslims plan to go there to mourn the loss of not just a movie superstar but a kindred soul who understood and shared the pride of Muslims, said Datu Amerol Gulam Ambiong, chair of the Metro Manila Muslim Peace and Order Coordinating Council.

"The people here [at the Islamic Center in Quiapo] are not smiling. They walk slowly, as if carrying a heavy heart," Ambiong said.

Sen. Ralph Recto urged the government to pay the highest tribute to Poe by making him a National Artist.

"He did not hold public office but his influence was greater than those who had. Fate did not make him President, but to the people he was Da King," Recto said, urging senators to pass a resolution supporting such a declaration.

Poe's acts of charity

"For many families, Sundays were for talking to God, and

watching Da King [in moviehouses]," Recto said.

Vice President Noli de Castro also voiced his sadness, saying: "He has been known not only for his greatness in the local movie industry, but also for his philanthropic deeds for the less privileged which were worthy to emulate."

Former Sen. Loren Legarda, Poe's running mate in the May 10 elections, said "He will be missed by his multitude of fans and supporters who sincerely believe in the justness and correctness of the cause he fought for."

Soon after Poe died, a member of his staff said on radio that his makeup artist of over 40 years had gone to the funeral parlor to "make him handsome for the last time" before his body was taken to a church for public viewing.

Unfulfilled dream

Among Poe's visitors while he lay in a coma in the intensive care unit at St. Luke's Medical Center was former first lady Imelda Marcos.

"It is sad that Fernando Poe Jr., a truly good person, died of a broken heart, denied his vision of a dreamland country for the Filipino people," said Marcos.

For an hour yesterday, the death of Poe preoccupied the Senate, which was already pressed for time in its bid to pass Ms. Arroyo's tax measures.

But the senators could not help but join in the national mourning.

Seventeen senators who were present joined Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in co-authoring a Senate resolution "expressing the profound condolence of the Senate on the untimely demise of Poe and honoring his contribution to Philippine socio-cultural and political development."

Among other things, the resolution recognized Poe for having throughout his life stood for "integrity, decency, sincerity, hard

work and perseverance, qualities that have endeared him to the hearts and minds of the Filipino people."

Only one of his kind

"FPJ was probably the only presidential candidate who turned down contributions by the millions even as he needed the money whenever he perceived them to be 'investments' in his presidency," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

"FPJ was in my mind, *sui generis*. A man alone. A class act unto himself," Pimentel added.

Sen. Minam Defensor-Santiago said it was rare for a man to leave "such a strong impression" on the people.

Santiago said Poe was married to Susan Roces, who "matches his credentials in good breeding and culture."

Jinggoy Estrada said Poe was his godfather, counsel, friend and adviser.

"FPJ lived his life the way he lived his screen roles. He was the champion of the oppressed; the good, God-fearing, kind-hearted man who would come to the rescue."

Grief in the mountains

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army also expressed their condolences.

"Let not his death weaken the resolve of the millions of his supporters to continue the principles and belief that FPJ had stood and fought for. They have to continue his fight," Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonia, Cynthia D. Balana, Christine O. Avendaño, Vincent Cabres and Estanislao Caidas, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Marlon Ramos, Romulo O. Ponte and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Luige A. del Puerto

'Ang Alamat' now a true indisputable legend

From page A1

litical supporters.

Be it as Panday, Asedillo, Aguila, Mediavilla, Daniel Barrion, or as Eseng Tondo, Torrey Bato, Pepeng Kaliwete or Roman Rapido, "FPJ" commanded awe and allegiance for these characters that were "soft-spoken but relentless, do-gooding but a loner, and distant with mystery."

These were the words of the late great Quijano de Manila, who concluded that Poe had chosen to be a "fairy-tale hero," one that fed "an older hunger in the masses" than other action stars, specifically Joseph Estrada and Zaldy Zshornack, ever could.

On top of this, the actor was precious copy, both because he was stingy with interviews and because his was a compelling story, indeed.

One fortunate writer was started at the enthusiasm with which Poe threw himself into a rare on-location one-on-one over two decades ago. He was upbeat because it was a last shooting day, the actor explained. He had also taken his cinco litros (five liters) of beer. Not that he needed an excuse.

Pieces of his life then tumbled out between takes and more rounds of beer. His real name was Ronald Allan von Pou, he declared, even spelling it out. The revelation smacked of "Rumplestiltskin," and would turn out to be as astonishing as many other unbidden details.

Padre de familia

Ronnie said his father, actor-producer Fernando Poe Sr., was not butten by a dog, as everyone had thought for years. But it was not incorrect to say he had died of rabies, he added, since a puppy had licked wounds on Poe Sr.'s leg.

At 11, Ronnie, the eldest son, played his first hero role as head of the family. Since Poe Sr.'s Royal Productions had promptly crashed, the boy took any job he could find, including, according to an old friend, pushing carts in the market.

Good grades, swimming skills and the ability to play at least one musical instrument had been Poe Sr.'s basic requirements for his six children. Ronnie had complied with every one of these, playing the violin as a boy, although none would prove as useful as another thing he had learned in his early years, during childhood summers spent in Baguio: horseback riding.

The young *padre de familia* (head of the family) also became proficient at knife targets. This would land him his first big role in a movie, hitting a leaf on a tree with a knife. He didn't get paid, but was treated by the crew to all the beer he could drink.

First big role

After four years spent in dire need, the widow Bessie and her brood seemed to

be looking at a brighter future. Meanwhile, Ronnie had stopped schooling.

In 1955, he was cast in "Anak ni Palaris." This was when he took the screen name Fernando Poe Jr. His father had played Palaris in an earlier movie. It was Ronnie's first real film role, for which he was paid a handsome P1,000.

The following year, he was in the first "Lo' Waist Gang," which spawned a series of hit sequels.

When FPJ signed a contract with Premiere Productions in 1958, he was something of a superstar, earning P3,000 per film.

As he told it, the contract was up for renewal in 1960, and he asked for a pay hike of P4,000 per film. No one had pulled such a stunt before, balking at the studio system. He was the first local movie "rebel." Premiere chose to release him.

He recalled working for six months as a doorman for P5 a day. Then a new movie outfit, Hollywood Far East, offered him "Markado." He demanded P8,000 ("I had been out of work for so long!") and, much to his surprise, got it.

There was always enough food in the house now. Ronnie was happy. After work, he would fetch his three sisters and two brothers from school and go straight home with them.

One-man industry

Most significantly, "Markado" started FPJ off on the cowboy path, his door to the big time. After saving up P60,000 in about two years, he put up his own company.

In its very first year, FPJ Productions made five movies. Ronnie became the country's first movie star to become his own producer. Other big names who would follow suit were Joseph Estrada, putting up JE Productions; Amalia Fuentes, AM Productions; Dolphy, RVQ Productions; Vilma Santos, VS Films; and Nora Aunor, NV Productions.

FPJ and Estrada stood their ground in 1963 against the "Big Four" syndicate that extorted "protection" money from movie stars and threatened them with disfigurement. This single act of courage made the two men industry gods.

FPJ Productions went on to produce an estimated 266 films, roughly six or seven a year, many of them blockbusters. Using the name Ronwaldo Reyes (his paternal grandmother's maiden surname), Ronnie became his own director as well for many of his own productions. The company has outlived the big-movie firms Sampaguita Pictures, LVN and Premiere Productions.

Admirers described him as a "one-man industry." He always said his one goal with every project was to please the moviegoers. Supporters would say years later, ring the presidential campaign, that FPJ Productions made movies most-



THE BEST endorser of San Miguel Beer to the end.

ly to keep the industry people employed.

Box office king

In 1968, Ronnie married Susan Roces in what was invariably dubbed as "Wedding of the Year." At that point in his life, it seemed he couldn't ask for more. He was "Takilya (Box Office) King" in a world where he was sovereign.

Eventually the title ceased to refer only to ticket sales; he was called "Da King," period.

He went on to win five Best Actor trophies from the Filipino Academy for Movie Arts and Sciences for "Mga Alabok sa Lupa" (1967), "Asedillo" (1971), "Durugin si Torrey Bato" (1979), "Umpisahan Mo, Tatapusin Ko" (1983) and "Muslim Magnum .357" (1986). This elevated him to the Parnass Hall of Fame.

Three of his movies were likewise named Famas best picture: "Sigaw ng Digmaan" (1963), "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit" (1970) and "Ang Padrino" (1984).

He was last seen on screen with billiards champion Efron "Bata" Reyes in "Palans" last year.

Very private

FPJ was vigilant about keeping his privacy, so that news of personal pursuits—whether works of charity and real-life heroism or romantic escapades, or tiffs with some reporters—never took off beyond hushed exchanges.

He was once asked, mischievously, if he ever fell in love with a leading lady

other than his wife (with whom he had made 17 movies). His cryptic answer: "I have to fall in love a little every time. This does not mean a physical encounter. For example, Boots Anson-Roa. *Ilang beses na akong na-in love d'yan* (I've fallen in love with her a few times). But it's not true that I courted them all."

More often, a sparking rumor was quelled by throwing a blanket of cold silence on it.

He was, however, unabashed in his praise for men he held in high esteem and deep affection. He could never quite forget Manuel "Juan Tamad" Conde who, he said, had tricks with the knife that he could only hope to imitate.

Favorite men

The late Jesus Lapid, a stuntman, was "a beautiful man, a beautiful person" who could stop a running horse with "sheer muscle power."

At the start of a controversy between Ronnie and Lito Lapid once, he had told the younger actor: "Do not make an enemy out of me. I honor your father's (Jesus) memory."

And he wished Susan had met another Lapid that he "respected and loved dearly," Jess, the action star.

For FPJ, the best actor in Philippine movies is... "not me, although I'm better than Joseph Estrada," he liked to jest. "Berting Labra is numero uno (No. 1). Next is Puring Dolphy. They both have perfect timing, whether in comedy or drama."

When Labra, a "Lo' Waist Gang" chum was in prison, Ronnie visited him twice a year without fail. Needless to say, he looked after Labra's family in ways never publicly made known. That's the way FPJ wanted it.

In his kingdom, Da King had full control of his life.

Losing his cool

All these changed when he heeded politics' call. At first he stepped in just to help his friend Estrada, whose victory he assisted in no small measure. But when he ran for president himself, his world was turned upside down.

He was vilified big time, and the enemies started with his name, no less. Ronald Allan Kelly Poe. How could anyone with a name like that be Filipino?

A grown-up son, Ronlan, with former co-star Anna Maria, was forced out of relative "hiding."

Da King had lost his privacy. Then he lost his cool. Surrounded by newsmen not exactly raised in movie press surroundings, he became disoriented and was given to outbursts that often disrupted sorties.

And yet he continued to drive rally crowds wild with a routine speech pieced together from titles of his movies.

"*Kahit batas ng karayom, papasukan ko para sa inyo* (I would go through the eye

of the needle for you)," he would tell them. "*Kapag puno na ang salop, ayas na ang kasunod* (When the bucket overflows what happens next is inevitable). *Kailangan ko lang ay kahit konting pagtingin* (All I need is a little help). Audiences everywhere turned up in droves, listened in rapt attention, swooned, screamed and even chanted his name. They also had a lot of fun, since FPJ was always accompanied by friends from the movies, and some of the biggest names at that—Dolphy, Rudy Fernandez, Eddie Garcia, to name three of the "regulars."

Irreplaceable

At times when he failed to reach out to the journalists covering his campaign, he brought his case straight to the voters. "I am not a saint. I have enemies, too. But my enemies are big people. I have no enemies among the poor. I know you. I understand you."

And then he lost the elections in a dramatic finish. It was not easy to accept.

For his dwindling political army, *hindi pa tapos ang laban* (the struggle is not over), especially since he died on the day of the first hearing of his formal protest. (Story on Page A1.)

But even setting that aside, the film industry's anguish over his death is big enough news to hog newspaper and television headlines.

"He is irreplaceable," actress Caridad Sanchez said on TV, valiantly suppressing her tears. "Philippine movies will never be the same."

A true legend

At the hospital where he lay in a coma for less than two days, strangers turned up, weeping, to thank him for some help he had extended at some time. FPJ's own family was astounded.

For Da King, the last shooting day of every movie was celebration day. He would invariably show up in high spirits, announcing that every scene should be "take one" and could he please not be made to recite so many lines? And, of course, beer would flow.

A creature of habit—he kept his favorite shirts, pair of boots, pillows and blankets for years, not to mention that he cast practically the same people in his movies—Ronnie was celebrating on the last day he spent with some of the people closest to him.

He was happy, witnesses said. Not nearly as boisterous as usual, but happy just the same.

For sure his send-off will be one of the grandest and most emotional in the country's history. Never mind that he will not be riding into a cinematic sunset, or that he has left his last battle unresolved. Everything else that he had ever done more than makes him "Ang Alamat" now, a true, indisputable legend.

SWEEPSTAKES

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min

2 9 3 5 2 4 0

1 2 3 4 14 20

METRO

E22

SUERTRES

SIX DIGIT

1 5 3 7 5 6 7 0 6 2 0

(In exact order)

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

New work
sked plan
on today

By Margaux C. Ortiz

STARTING today, employees from government and private companies will start work on a different schedule as part of the Staggered Working Time (SWT) scheme in an effort to ease up traffic brought about by the holiday season.

"It's all systems go for the scheme," Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayan Fernando told the INQUIRER in a phone interview, adding that the adjustment of work schedules would remove 30 percent of the workforce off the road. The scheme, contained in Memorandum Circular No. 81, would be implemented until Jan. 6.

Fernando said President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had approved the scheme over the weekend, issued an executive order yesterday mandating government and private employees to adjust their work hours.

"The scheme is actually mandatory," Fernando stressed, adding that they are initially expecting 50 percent of the workforce to comply with the SWT today.

Under the proposed scheme, government workers are required to work from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., while private employees are asked to report from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The MMDA chair explained that the other companies still had to make some adjustments, and would still talk to their workers and labor unions regarding the scheme's implementation.

The Tripartite Industrial Peace Council, composed of representatives from the business and labor sectors, gave the MMDA a thumbs up to the proposal last week, Fernando said.

15 bank robbery suspects fall

By Christian V. Esquerro
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR FIVE hours yesterday, Valenzuela City became the scene of a bank robbery and a bloody gun battle that saw the death of three suspects, two bystanders and a policeman.

Twelve suspects were reported arrested after police quickly responded to the robbery.

The suspects, which police said were part of the Waray-Waray criminal group, robbed the Banco de Oro branch on MacArthur Highway at about 9:30 a.m.

Fleeing in two white, heavily tinted Kia Pregio vans, about 15 suspects fled down Maysan

Road toward the North Luzon Expressway.

However, witnesses and bank employees immediately alerted the police, who set up checkpoints along possible escape routes.

Along Paso de Blas in Barangay Canumay West, the suspects encountered a team from the Valenzuela police and opened fire.

PO2 Victor Zabala was hit and killed on the spot. His companions, Insp. Rhodenck Juan and PO1 Fernando Mariano, were wounded.

"They caught us by surprise with their high-powered firearms," Mariano later said.

The robbers peppered the police with bullets, said Director Avelino

Razon Jr., director of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Unfazed, the lawmen fought back and held the suspects at bay until reinforcements from the Northern Police District Special Weapons and Tactics team, and from the Regional Special Action Force arrived.

The arrival of dozens of policemen forced the suspects to abandon their vehicles. Their loot in several sacks were left inside the vans.

Two suspects, including a certain "JR" whom arrested suspects later identified as their leader, were slain in the initial exchange of gunfire.

In their bid to elude arrest, some of the remaining suspects

ran into a maze of alleys and houses on San Diego Street.

Some of the suspects fled into a warehouse where they took cover behind parked bulldozers and other heavy equipment.

Reporter Doland Castro of ABS-CBN was hit by shrapnel in the leg when a grenade thrown by the suspects exploded as he followed them into an alley.

Another suspect was killed in the ensuing pursuit operation, which, after five hours of house to house search, led to the arrest of 12 alleged gang members.

The Valenzuela City Hall reported that two bystanders, a 59-year-old businesswoman and a jeepney driver were also

killed in the gun battle.

Some of the suspects sustained minor injuries from jumping high walls and tripping inside the compound.

Police identified those arrested as Zaldy Calim, Rey Ediser, Reynaldo Bustamante, Zaldy Mangalindan, Melvin Lacson, Chris Abas, Jun Mendoza, Bunny Cervilla, Alex Adriano, Rucky Cabata, Ronnie Fernandez and Alejandro Candan.

The weapons seized from the group suggested its strength and notoriety: four M-16 and M-14 rifles, five rifle grenades, handguns, fragmentation grenades, military uniforms and combat boots.

Faucets start drying up in metro; 50 tankers fielded

By Christine Gaylican

WATER has started to trickle from the faucets of consumers in some parts of Quezon City, Caloocan, Navotas, Malabon and Pasay City as west concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. reduced the delivery of the basic need in these areas.

Maynilad cut back its water supply by 25 percent since its filtration plants could only take up so much of the brackish water coming from Angat Dam.

"The water from the Angat Dam reservoir has very high sediment deposits because of the heavy rains brought by the typhoons," said Maynilad corporate communications head Jesus Matubis.

"The normal average sediment deposits had exceeded, and we should reduce the water we process to 19,000 million liters per day."

Matubis noted that there is no assurance when the water service disruptions would be lifted as continuing efforts to rehabilitate the Umuray-Angat water tunnel are ongoing.

"We are asking our customers to bear with us because in some areas, the water we deliver is brownish in color," Matubis said.

"But this water is clean, although we recommend that the supply should be filtered and boiled," he added.

Fifty mobile tankers had been mobilized to bring water to the affected areas, according to Matubis.

Concessionaires Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. made a commitment to finance part of the needed rehabilitation that would clear the debris clogging the water tunnel from Angat Dam.

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Administrator Orlando Honrade told the INQUIRER that the concessionaires managing the east and west water distribution networks of Manila would

shoulder part of the needed funds estimated to cost not less than P500 million.

"These are just initial estimates. The two companies and their consultants are also helping in the assessment of the full extent of the damage to the Umuray-Angat water tunnel," Honrade said, adding that both had pledged to give financial and technical assistance.

Angat is the main source of the two water firms that supply water to 10 to 12 million residents of Manila, Quezon City, Mandaluy-

ong, Caloocan, Rizal, Taguig, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, and parts of Cavite.

"During these extraordinary events, our company and Maynilad have coordinated with the MWSS to share the burden to extend better service to our customers," Manila Water Company Inc. president Antonino T. Aquino said.

Steve Esteban, head of Maynilad's Water Production Department said he expects the water pro-

duction to return to normal as soon as the turbidity level improves.

Esteban assured the public that the water from its La Mesa Treatment Plants remains safe, saying this is properly chlorinated and processed. Nevertheless, he urged residents to report any instance of smelly or highy discolored water to Maynilad Hotline 1626. With Tina G. Santos

Hot logs
found
on boat

THE COAST Guard intercepted on Monday night a fishing vessel from Palawan that carried suspected illegally cut lumber hidden among containers of fish.

Around 200 pieces of lumber were found on board the F/B Mancris-3 by elements of the PCG's National Capital Region Division and the Philippine Navy.

Leila B. Salaverria

MICROVAN



(02) 984-0278/79

MEGA SALE!
on January 19, 2005 • STARTS AT 6:30 A.M. SHARP

WE DELIVER!



Hungry for news that would feed your mind?
The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers
straight to your doorstep. Subscribe
to the country's #1 newspaper now!

Call: 528-0183 / 528-0186

Fax reply coupon to: 528-02-34 or mail to:

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building
636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

Signature _____

JOIN THE UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION OF
AUCTION
MALINTA
TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMSOn these dates: JAN. 19 - 22, 2005
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP

1 of 80 Excavators KOMATSU PW100-3 EXCAVATOR	1 of 50 Bulldozers CAT D3 BULLDOZER
1 of 35 Wheel Loaders TCM 688A WHEEL LOADER	1 of 15 Motor graders MITSUBISHI LG2H MOTOR GRADER
2 of 240 Closed Vans ISUZU ELF ALUM. CLOSED VANS	1 of 240 Closed Vans FUSO FIGHTER ALUM. CLOSED VANS
1 of 70 Dropsides ISUZU FORWARD FRR ALUM. DROPSIDE, FUKUYAMA UNIT	1 of 35 Wing Vans HINO 10W ALUM. WING VAN
1 of 15 Transit Mixers ISUZU FORWARD FRR TRANSIT MIXER	1 of 5 Tanker Trucks HINO 6W TANK LORRY
1 of 70 Dump Trucks ISUZU ELF DUMP TRUCK	DENYO 80, 150, 220 KVA GENSETS

INSPECTION DATES: JAN. 13 - 15, 2005
(02)984-8741 • (32)984-8753 • (02)984-0216/15

Computer Problem? We come to YOU!

PCHelp HOME & OFFICE COMPUTER SERVICE

Honest and Experienced Technicians

- ✓ DIAGNOSTICS
- ✓ UPGRADES / NEW COMPUTER SET UP
- ✓ VIRUS REMOVAL
- ✓ NETWORKING
- ✓ PRINTER/MONITOR
- ✓ SOFTWARE PROBLEMS
- ✓ MAINTENANCE for home/office service, call: 727-2222

PRO-GYM
#1 IN FITNESS EQUIPMENT

CLUB EDITION ENGINEERING

ENGINEERED AND DESIGNED FOR HEALTH CLUBS, COMPANY GYMS, CONDOMINIUMS, RESORTS, HOTELS & SCHOOLS AT FACTORY DIRECT PRICES.

SELECTORIZED & PLATE LOADING

CALL US FOR A CATALOGUE, PRICE LIST OR FOR CONSULTATION IN PLANNING YOUR GYM

HOME GYM P26,950.

COMPACT GYM
MULTI-WORKOUT MACHINE
Health Club quality machine with over 30 uses to strengthen, condition and tone all muscle groups to include the CHEST, ARMS, SHOULDERS, BACK, LEGS, THIGH & BUTTOCKS.

MAXI BENCH P6,950.

Than all-adjustable bench. FLAT, INCLINE, DECLINE & UPRIGHT. Also includes leg curl extensions & Dipping Bar. 2" Sq. Steel. Optional Attachments sold separately. ARM CURL... P990. LAT PULLDOWN... P3,250.

MEGA BENCH P4,950. (90 Ang Curb)

1" 5" Sq. Steel
TRAINING BENCH
1" Round Tube

DUMBBELL SET P2,950.

35 lbs. Set
(25 lbs. & 10 lbs. plates) P980.

BARBELL SET P1,695.

(30 lbs.) & plates

FREE: WEIGHT TRAINING BOOKLET EXERCISE CHART
FLAT, INCLINE, DECLINE & UPRIGHT. Also includes leg curl extensions & Dipping Bar. 2" Sq. Steel. Optional Attachments sold separately. ARM CURL... P990. LAT PULLDOWN... P3,250.

CARDIO

FLIP TRAXX P7,950.
MAXI TRAXX P11,250.

CALL US FOR LEASING OR COMPACT GYM, BENCHES OR CARDIO

TO ORDER CALL: 742-14-08
741-59-74
743-14-49

SEPTIM, INC.
88 MALCON ST. GREEN CITY
FACTORY OUTLET

CLING WITH ME, MANILA

From the leader in wireless innovation!

SMART TEXT REMINDER

Send reminders to your friends so they'd always remember.



Let new SMART Text Reminder help organize things for you and your friends. It's a smart and convenient way to remind them of important things. Tulad ng mga gimiks na di dapat ma-miss. Schedule ng mga dapat gawin. Ang text reminder, darating sa araw at oras na gusto mong matanggap ng friends mo. Kaya ngayon, wala nang dahilan para may makalimutan.

2 ways to use Text Reminder:

I-TEXT REMINDER ang friends mo



Just type REMIND
<date>/<time> <message>
Date and time when you want your
friend to receive the text reminder



And send to 210 + friend's
cellphone number

I-TEXT REMINDER ang sarili mo



Just type REMIND
<date>/<time> <message>
Date and time when you want
to receive the text reminder



And send to 210

I ♥
SMART
Simply Amazing!

For questions, comments or concerns, you may call SMART Hotline at 088-1111, call *888 from your cellphone (toll-free), send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customer@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.
Available on brands under the SMART Network: Infinity, SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, Talk 'N Text

BASKETBALL: NBA
Hornets vs Bobcats; 8 a.m. (7-8 p.m.);
Sole Sports—The Hornets pay a visit to their old home, Charlotte, as they take on the expansion Bobcats.
US NCAA—Illinois-Chicago vs Duke; 10 a.m. (7-3:30 p.m.); ESPN—the highly touted Blue Devils face UIC
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

Text us your feedback: inquirer.sports@inquirer.com.ph or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Don't miss
your favorite TV shows!
Check out today's
Inquirer TV Guide
in the
Entertainment section
Happy Viewing!

Hot Limpot rescues TJ Hotdogs

Strings up four markers as Purefoods thwarts Red Bull Barako uprising

By June Navarro

JUN Limpot scored off two brilliant plays in the final minute to lift the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs past the Red Bull Barako, 92-88, last night.

STANDINGS

Talk 'N Text	11	4
Ginebra	10	5
Shell	10	6
Purefoods	8	8
SM Beer	7	8
Alaska	7	9
Coca-Cola	7	9
Sta. Lucia	5	9
FedEx	5	9
Red Bull	6	9

GAMES TODAY
(Aranelo Coliseum)
4:30 p.m.—Talk N
Text vs Shell
7:20 p.m.—FedEx
vs Sta. Lucia Realty

TJ Hotdogs in the final minutes of the out-of-town game sponsored by Lactovital.

Enrico Villanueva scored at low post and Lordy Tugade drilled in a jumper to move the Barako close at 86-90, before Limpot converted his charities and Purefoods' tight defense in the dying seconds derailed Red Bull's final offensive.

With the win, the TJ Hotdogs moved to solo fourth at 8-8, while the Barako absorbed their seventh defeat in 15 games.

The Barako started real cold, going scoreless for more than seven minutes after converting their first basket 39 seconds after tip-off.

By the time Lordy Tugade broke the Barako's silence, the TJ Hotdogs had already moved out-front, 16-4.

Red Bull actually committed 14 turnovers during that lethargic stretch—a league record—as they trailed 11-22 in the first quarter. The gap ballooned to 25-43 before the half.

Rico Villanueva and Ryan Bernardo, however, asserted themselves in the shaded area, and the Barako slowly chipped away at the double-digit deficit to come within 59-65.

Tension flared late in the final quarter when Tonyboy Espinosa and Jimwell Torion nudged the arm of referee Boy Cruz.

The scores:
PUREFOODS 92—Castillo 19, Evangelista 15, Yee 12, Limpot 10, Espinosa 9, Raymundo 7, Laure 6, Ariadi 5, Yap 5, Simon 3, Hrabak 0.

RED BULL 88—Villanueva 23, Tugade 18, Asaytono 18, Bernardo 9, Robinson 6, Torion 6, Baguio 5, Lopez 3, Rodriguez 2, Alvarez 0.

Quarters: 22-11, 45-32, 67-60, 92-88

Limpot canned a short-range floater and sank two pressure-packed free-throws to snuff the life out of the rampaging Barako in the thrilling Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup encounter at the San Sebastian Recoletos gym in Cavite City.

The victory was the TJ Hotdogs' eighth in 16 outings.

The Barako never led although they managed to come back from 18 points down to provide some scary moments for the

download zed 288

Everybody wants to win a CRV this Christmas. Get yours now!
Download from zed and you could win a Honda CRV or P100,000 in cash!

Text ZED to 288

We're giving away a Honda CRV every month and P100,000 cash every week!

P.O.W. PICK OF THE WEEK SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

To subscribe	Send to 288
Logos	POWLOGO
Girl Logos	POWGAL
Guy Logos	POWGUY
Pic Messages	POWMSG
Ringtones	POWTONE
Polytones	POWPOLY
Wallpaper	POWMMS

WALLPAPERS

To download an MMS wallpaper, text **MMS** <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles!



THEMES

Text **THEME** <keyword> to 288 and get 6 raffles!
For more themes, text **THEME** to 288.



MSAVER

Text **MSAVER** <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles!



TONES

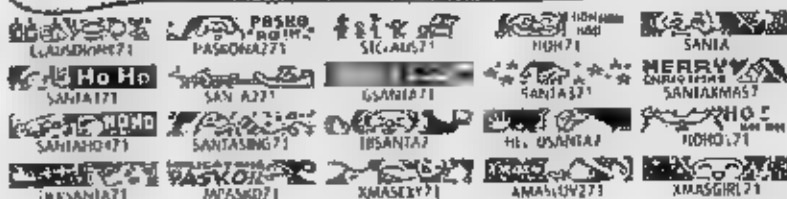
For Monotones, text **TONE** <keyword> to 288 and for Polytones, text **POLY** <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles per download!

TONE
12 Days of Christmas
Blue Christmas
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Auld Lang Syne
The First Noel
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Oh, Holy Night
Joy To The World
Oh, Come Oh Ye Faithful
Oh Little Town of Bethlehem
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Jolly Old Santa Claus
Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
Silent Night
Deck The Halls
Jingle Bell Rock
Away In A Manger

POLY
12 DAYS
BLUE CHRISTMAS
HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS
AULD LANG SYNE
THE FIRST NOEL
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING
OH, HOLY NIGHT
JOY TO THE WORLD
OH, COME OH YE FAITHFUL
OH LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER
JOLLY OLD SANTA CLAUS
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN
SILENT NIGHT
DECK THE HALLS
JINGLE BELL ROCK
AWAY IN A MANGER

LOGOS

To download a logo, text **LOGO** <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles!



PICTURE MESSAGES

To download a picture message, text **PICT** <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles!



QUESTIONS? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, ext. 100 or at 888-1111-1111. Send us your feedback at pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
For more details, see page 10 of the SMART Wireless Card.

Also available to Talk 'N Text, Addict and SMART Gold subscribers.
15 pesos per download of ringtone, picture message, logo, wallpaper and download of picture. 30 pesos per download of regular text message and MMS.
To ensure that you do not exceed your credit limit, the system will automatically stop the service if you have reached the limit.
The SMART Wireless Card is not valid for use in the Philippines.



WHAT'S INSIDE



Nokors foil Blu Girls' final 4 bid in thriller /A26



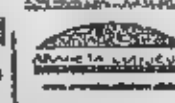
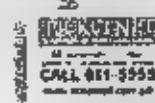
Jenny searches for her old hero /A27

Villaroman wins ITT shoot-out /A28

Shaq lifts Heat past Wizards /A30

Here's a cool deal from **Treats**
15% off Disney on Ice tickets.

Every P300 purchase at Treats gets you a 15% discount on Disney on Ice tickets. So shop at Treats now for a special holiday treat!



Lyceum tossers pin fourth loss on SSC

GAMES TOMORROW (Rizal Coliseum)
3 p.m.—La Salle vs PSG
5 p.m.—UST vs FEU

LYCEUM, with Michelle Laborte and Cristina Salak on the firing end, subdued San Sebastian College, 25-12, 19-25, 25-15, 25-18, yesterday to notch its second straight victory after back-to-back losses in the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Coliseum.

Laborte and Salak combined for 32 points as the Lady Pirates dominated their rivals in the third and fourth sets to claim victory in one hour and 46 minutes.

Ma. Angelica Bigas also came off the bench to score 11 points as Lyceum gained a share of fourth place with Letran, which was playing against Philippine Sports Com-

munion at presstime.

Lyceum likewise lorded it over the net in defense, churning out 14 points on blocks with Salak accounting for half of them.

Laborte, though, emerged the best scorer for the team with 18 points on 64 attempts.

The loss was SSC's fourth straight in the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision Management Group Inc.

Angela Descalsora took the cudgels for the Lady Stags in the early going but failed to draw support from the rest of the team as only Jennifer Bohawe stepped up to toss in 16 points for the quad.

The Lady Pirates hunted of things to come when they took the first set with relative ease, 25-12.

Nokors foil Blu Girls' final 4 bid in thriller

IN A well-fought game that needed three extra innings to settle, North Korea downed the Philippines, 5-3, to virtually eliminate the Blu Girls from the semifinal race yesterday in the eighth Asian women's softball tournament at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

The vastly improved North Koreans erupted for four runs on five hits in the 10th inning off Blu Girls' starter Diona Macasu to salvage the victory on a hot, windless afternoon before a crowd of 2,000.

The Koreans clinched their second win in three games in a tie with the Blu Girls, who now face the tough task of beating defending titlist and powerhouse China today to stay alive in the race for the second semifinal slot in Group B.

In order to advance, the Blu Girls need to beat the Chinese and pray that Indonesia defeats North Korea in one of the six games set tomorrow in this tournament serving as the Asian eliminations for the world championship in 2006 in Beijing.

The Blu Girls gave the North Koreans a whale of a fight for nine innings until that fateful 10th inning during which starting pitcher Diona Macasu lost her touch after nine solid innings.

In a last-ditch effort to turn the game around, the Blu Girls scored two runs in their turn at bat in the 10th, but Korean Kim Yun Sun heroically pitched herself out of trouble.

After Emily Tayag reached second, Elaine Caladiao fled out to short but Nimfa Baral sent Tayag scooting for home with a scorching double to leftfield for the Blu Girls' second run in the

GAMES TODAY (Rizal ballpark)
8 a.m.—Taiwan vs Singapore
10 a.m.—North Korea
12 noon—Hong Kong vs India
2 p.m.—Indonesia vs Malaysia
4 p.m.—Japan vs South Korea
6 p.m.—China vs Philippines



BLU Girl Gina Salvador stretches to put out North Korea's Ju Ki-mun at first base.

JESS YUSON

game and first in the inning.

Baral made it 3-5, thanks to Gina Salvador who singled to center with one out. This time, the crowd started to entertain thoughts of a complete comeback by the Filipinos.

But it did not come.

Kim forced Macasu to ground out to short and ended her stint in grand fashion by striking out Nehia Lara on four pitches.

The Koreans tagged Macasu for nine hits, including five in the 10th inning. Macasu gave way to Maria Corazon Sobere after that four-run binge.

"Soyang, kayang talunan, per medyo minalas sa tawag (Tough luck, we could have beat them if not for some bad calls)," said Blu Girls' coach

Rolly Malaguit, fighting off tears.

One of the Blu Girls' strongest scoring chances came in the lower ninth inning when they loaded the bases with one out, but the Filipinos ran into a double play, ending the threat.

With Chu Ming-hui and Lai Sheng combining for a five-hitter and catcher T.Y. Chu igniting a three-run blast in the third inning, Chinese Taipei virtually clinched a place in the semifinals by beating South Korea, 3-0, for a 2-1 record in Group A. China paces the group with three wins.

In no-bearing games, Indonesia downed Thailand, 6-1, for a 1-2 record and Singapore defeated Hong Kong, 4-2, to break into the win column after two straight losses.

CARRYBOY

World Class Auto Accessories

Titanium Series 3 Canopy

Rear Glass DEFROGGER
Pop-up side windows

Aluminum Rollbar CB-706

Smarty Series 5

Sliding side windows & side locks

CB Roller Up

For tall loads Very strong

• OPEN FOR DEALERSHIP NATIONWIDE •

SPECIFY CARRYBOY BRAND

84 Banawe cor. Macopo Sta., D.C. Near Retiro St. & National Orthopedic Hospital, going Del Monte Ave., Q.C. Dial 7400-525 • 7400-530 • 7323-109
e-mail: k.k.assikis@pacific.net.ph • website: www.carryboyphil.com

Robinsons Department Store

50 YEARS

TRICKOK

simply the best in leather

What FPJ had wanted from Pacman

KNOWING FPJ, who genuinely cared for his poor countrymen, he would not like to see them grieving.

He had spent the best years of his life trying to bring them hope.

FPJ's heart melted each time he would see a cold, hungry kid out in the streets. So, listen please.

This one is meant to help ease your grief over the untimely passing of this great gentleman.

FPJ lapsed into a coma on Saturday feeling like a Christmas tree.

You're free to believe that or not.

That could be a bit exaggerated, but based on reports and the testimonies of people around him, FPJ suffered that fatal stroke while celebrating the knockout victory of Manny Pacquiao on Saturday.

He was also in his element, preparing packages for victims of the watery disaster in the provinces of Quezon and Aurora.

FPJ must've jumped with joy after Pacquiao had disposed of his Thai foe.

There were unconfirmed reports Pacquiao and FPJ were able to talk on the phone before the great actor collapsed and was rushed to the hospital.

We would try to confirm that with the victorious fighter.

But it's like this: FPJ felt ecstatic because he sincerely felt that Pacquiao's feat had brought instant joy and hope to countless people around him.

As a genuine sports fan, FPJ did swim in the post-fight euphoria.

But above all, the man deeply relished the quick victory because of its happy impact on the lives of poor people.

Too bad FPJ never had a chance to witness how things were in the various poor-man's places the morning after.

Oh, he must've nodded in genuine delight to see how it was at the wet market, all other haunts of the mob that scratch the earth for a living, on Sunday morning.

There was a distinct holiday lift out there.

It was sunny, but doubly bright were the smiles on the faces of the small people, the countless poor souls who themselves felt deeply rewarded by Pacquiao's screaming triumph.

Of course, Pacquiao himself knew the far-reaching effects of his effort.

Pacquiao, a onetime construction worker, knew the aspirations of the hungry horde.

BARE EYE



Recab Trinidad

He need not ask a psychologist what great goodness he had caused in a country badly wanting in winners.

Did FPJ manage to make a last wish to Pacquiao?

That, again, is hard to determine.

But it goes without saying that, whether or not FPJ was able to utter it, he would've asked Pacquiao to be super fit for his next big assignment.

Why? Because Pacquiao no longer fights for himself alone.

Not for fame and fortune only.

But for all his countrymen, mainly the poor.

He must do his utmost best to again stay at peak form.

OK. The Pacman celebrates his birthday Dec. 17.

Former national Tour cycling champ Jess Garcia Jr. celebrates his the following day.

But take it from Cycling Jess: If it's not asking too much, Pacquiao could try and dedicate his next fight to the memory of FPJ.

In order to do this, Pacman should now avoid short cuts.

He could do this by reporting to the Wild Card Boxing Club of Freddie Roach ahead of the original schedule.

He could try and cut short his holidays, fly to the US the day after Christmas.

Pacquiao must bear in mind that he would again be facing Juan Manuel Marquez, a fitness freak who managed to give him hell after he had downed the sweet-punching Mexican three times in the first round.

If Pacman manages to do all these, he would be aptly honoring FPJ, whose lifetime motto had always been: Give all your best for your poor countrymen.

Anyway, if FPJ had had any regret about the last presidential election, it was only one thing: his failure to fight his own fight and save the country from monstrous corruption and decay.

Goodbye, Manager.

InoBox

Question of the Week

The sudden death of FPJ makes me feel that life is _____

Senders of a first 10 texts published in Tuesday's InoBox will each receive an 'Inquirer T-shirt'!

Inquirer news

name/city/message

(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Chay at 8978808
loc. 218. Provincial winners can text
inquirer ad name/city/mailling address
to 2207 or 283 as their names will be mailed to them

SPORTSWATCH

So rules Mayor Fernando active chess

WHIZ kid Wesley So want undefeated in seven rounds to rule the 5th Alay Kay Mayor Marides Carlos Fernando 2050 and below active chess non-master tournament Sunday at the Marlina Sports Center in Marlina City. The 11-year-old So gathered 6.5 points to bag the crown and the P5,000 top purse in the tournament organized by Marlina Chess Federation chair Johnny "Joel" Gauda and tournament arbiter NMI Rudy Ibeñez. Half a point behind were Jerry Areque, Richard Dela Cruz and Nelson Villanueva. Sharing 11th to eighth places with 5.5 points each were Dino Ballester, Rainer de Guzman, Ervil Villa and Leoncio Mauleon. The category winners were Jan Jodahay Fronda (top lady), Jan Vincent Paragay (top junior), Wesley So and Jude Emil Fronda (top kiddy), Mahin Dulaay and Michael Angeles (top Marlina kiddies), Leoncio Mauleon (top senior) and Danilo Azucena, Vernon Delevega and Nelson Mendoza (top Marlina player).

Marion Bernardino, Contributor

Dalumpines conquers fellow veterans

MICHAEL Dalumpines upset 1982 national champion Richard Ching, 4-1, on Sunday to conquer the first ever Battle of the Veterans' Reunion of the Champions table tennis at the Rancho Table Tennis Club in Marlinton City. Twenty-nine-year-old Dalumpines, a national junior champion in 1993, relied on his backhand spin to score a convincing 11-8, 11-9, 11-13, 11-8, 11-7 win against Ching and take the P10,000 cash prize plus trophy. Before the finals of the one-day tournament organized by Rlo Chua and supported by the Filipino-American Table Tennis Association, Dalumpines defeated former national team captain Julius Esposo, 11-8, 6-11, 14-12, 7-11, 11-9, to occupy the first final spot. Ching, on the other hand, vanquished current women's national head coach Laura Cristoforno, 8-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-7, in the semifinals.

Filipinos clinch 2 sepak takraw medals

BANGKOK—The Philippine team won two medals—a silver and a bronze—yesterday in the 15th King's Cup Sepak Takraw World Championship here. Composed of Harrison Castanera, Danilo Alipan, Michael Jose, Metodjo Sulco, Hector Memorion and Marbie Quirante, the RP squad scored 310 points to finish second to Thailand, which compiled 370. In the Hoop Takraw competition, a new event that will be played in the Indoor Asian Games here in November 2005, Alipan, Jolly Aguilero and Sulco combined to take the bronze in the Double Regu event. Thailand A bagged the gold, while Thailand B took the silver. Team manager Col. Romarico Calderon Sr. praised the Filipinos, who were coached by Vicente Luvag Jr. and Hector Sentillas.

Pasko sa Pasay 4-cocker gets going

THE SHOWDOWN of Metro Manila and provincial derby champions continue today as the second round eliminations of Pasay Sa Pasay 4-Cock Derby gets going at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit beginning at 5 p.m. The event, being hosted by PCC management, will be supported by Sagupaan Complex 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free. From a field of 63 participants, 12 posted two wins each in Monday's initial round. They were Jess Bautista (Final Questor I and II), Pepito Ngo (Fatmen Sa Pasay March), Boyet Legazpi (N/B Subukal), M. Pamey (Happy Birthday do), Otis Hizon (St. Valentine), Ronnie Bryan (Ronnie Bryan), Roming Vergara (Moche Buena), Roming Santos (ARS Platido), Raffy Alado (Grosby Jerusalem), Alvin John (Hi Manong) and Parmasko Namin PCC entry. About 75 new participants are competing in today's second round eliminations.

Place 1—1. Cabin Car 2. Valkari
Queen 3. Noble Principality
4. Friendly Lover

Race 2—1. Sir Brendan Jean 2.
Showman 3. Perfect Vision
5. Gain Powder

Race 3—1. Quant Je Puls 2. Held
Memory

4. Lucky Fly 5. Snapper

SPRACING

AT SLIP BY MR. 999
Golden Nancy Habag
Race 7—T.

Time 3. Pasirili

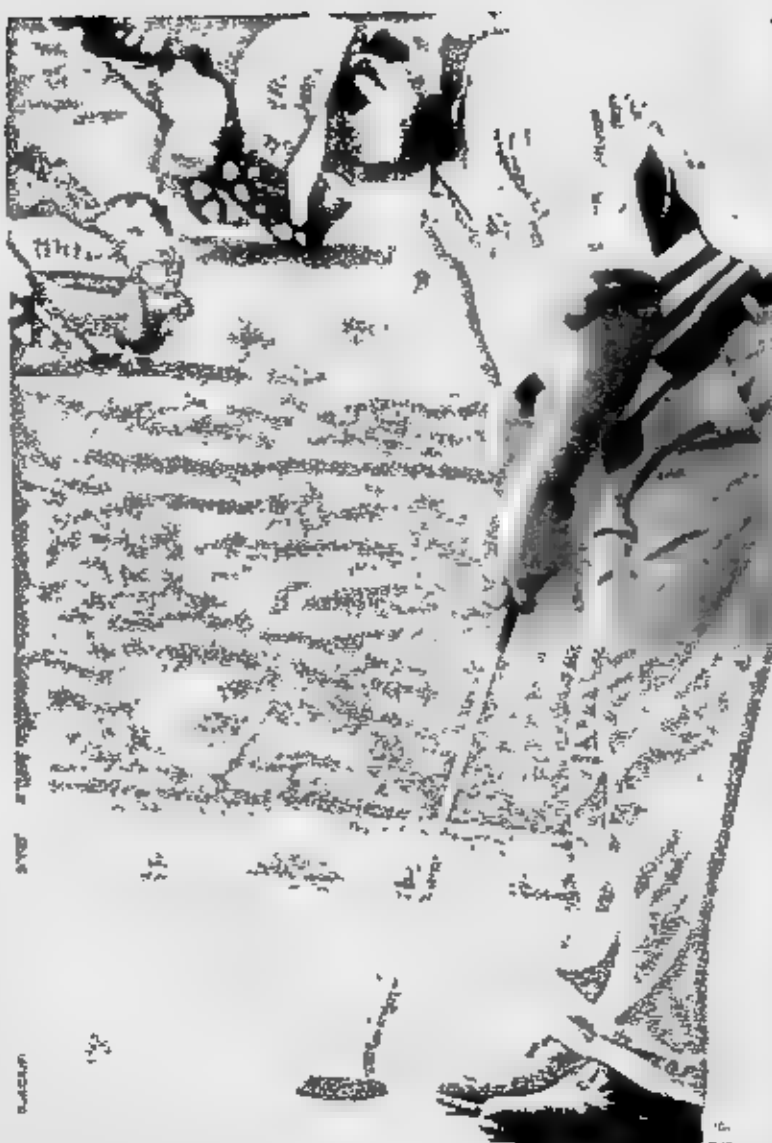
Vallejo

Race 5—1. Conglomerate 2. I

Don't Dance 3 Tribeca 4
5. Big Bucks 6. Ground Wire
Overseign Queen 2. Amazing Fire

1. **Princess** 2. **Princess** 3. **Princess** 4. **Princess** 5. **Princess** 6. **Princess** 7. **Princess** 8. **Princess** 9. **Princess** 10. **Princess** 11. **Princess** 12. **Princess** 13. **Princess** 14. **Princess** 15. **Princess** 16. **Princess** 17. **Princess** 18. **Princess** 19. **Princess** 20. **Princess** 21. **Princess** 22. **Princess** 23. **Princess** 24. **Princess** 25. **Princess** 26. **Princess** 27. **Princess** 28. **Princess** 29. **Princess** 30. **Princess** 31. **Princess** 32. **Princess** 33. **Princess** 34. **Princess** 35. **Princess** 36. **Princess** 37. **Princess** 38. **Princess** 39. **Princess** 40. **Princess** 41. **Princess** 42. **Princess** 43. **Princess** 44. **Princess** 45. **Princess** 46. **Princess** 47. **Princess** 48. **Princess** 49. **Princess** 50. **Princess** 51. **Princess** 52. **Princess** 53. **Princess** 54. **Princess** 55. **Princess** 56. **Princess** 57. **Princess** 58. **Princess** 59. **Princess** 60. **Princess** 61. **Princess** 62. **Princess** 63. **Princess** 64. **Princess** 65. **Princess** 66. **Princess** 67. **Princess** 68. **Princess** 69. **Princess** 70. **Princess** 71. **Princess** 72. **Princess** 73. **Princess** 74. **Princess** 75. **Princess** 76. **Princess** 77. **Princess** 78. **Princess** 79. **Princess** 80. **Princess** 81. **Princess** 82. **Princess** 83. **Princess** 84. **Princess** 85. **Princess** 86. **Princess** 87. **Princess** 88. **Princess** 89. **Princess** 90. **Princess** 91. **Princess** 92. **Princess** 93. **Princess** 94. **Princess** 95. **Princess** 96. **Princess** 97. **Princess** 98. **Princess** 99. **Princess** 100. **Princess**

5. Ocean Cooldown



VILLAROMAN: It's going to be a merry Christmas for me and my family. **POPHO**

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG--Carito Villaroman prevailed in a down-the-wire shootout with Richard Sinfuego yesterday, nailing birdies on the last two holes for a four-under 68 and a three-shot victory in the first Ideal Travel and Tours Invitational Pro-Am.

The 35-year-old former world junior golf champion, whose last taste of victory came in 1997, almost blew a two-shot lead and needed a stroke of brilliant

putting to hold off Sinfueg
P50,000 top prize.

Villaroman nailed a difficult sidehill putt on the 17th and rolled a birdie on the par-5 18th for a nine under par at the north and south courses of Canlubang Golf and Country Club here.

Sanfuego caught up with Villa overnight leader, with a birdie on the hole and a par on the next as the winner tripped on back-to-back misses taking the lead outright. The four-footer for birdie on the 14th out.

Still, Sinfuego, a last minute

PSC, foreign affairs support Para Games

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission and the Asean desk of the Department of Foreign Affairs have expressed their full support to the 3rd Asean Para Games set on Dec. 12-21, next year in Manila.

"No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has given her blessing to the games," PSC chair Eric Buhan said yesterday during the formal launching of the event at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

The presentation of the logo and the official mascot, Buboy Butanding, the whale shark, highlighted the program.

Asean Para Sports Federation president Zaina Abu Zarin, DFA assistant secretary and Asean-Philippines director general Susan Castrence, Organizing Committee chair and PSC Commissioner Michael Barredo, Philippine's Luis de Arellano, Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza and APSF's Emmanuel Person were also present.

Deen opens 2-shot lead over Almarino

CEBU—Eric Deen bucked a double-bogey on the fourth hole with a two-over-par 74 yesterday to move up two shots over archival Carl Almarino in the opening round of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour at the exclusive Cebu Country Club here.

Deen recovered from that early mistake to shoot two birdies on the seventh and 10th that made up for bogeys on Nos. 8 and 12 as he kicked off his bid for a record third straight crown in the 72-hole men's championship class.

Almarino was in the lead until he collapsed with three consecutive bogeys from the 13th but seems bent on giving Deen a tough time in the tourney serving as the seventh and final qualifying leg for the national grand finals next year.

Almario shot a 75 with birdies on the sixth, 11th and 12th against a bogey on the third and a double-bogey on the second.

Ferdinand Mondares was running third with a 76 while Lino Retuerto, son of noted swing coach Roger, and Mark Anthony Dy were tied at 78. Tristan Tabanas, one of the frontliners of PAL Interclub champ Diel Monte, fell nine shots behind after an opening 81.

The six entries are all aiming to join an elite group of qualifiers for the finals set on Feb. 8-11 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club that includes Arvic Pagunsan, Jun Bernis, Jay Bayron, Boyet Saragoza, Raymond Sangil and Korean Kim Chang-ho.

The Samsung Tour is also sponsored by Tokyo, Tokyo, C-Lium Fiber, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Pato Boracay, Coppertone Sport, and Rogin E. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

About 140 players plunge into action tomorrow for the 36-hole competitions in the various handicapped divisions where national team standout Jayvin Agoyo is entered in Class A with trophies and appearances at stake for the winners.

Agojo, who will be making her maiden participation in the Samsung Tour, will be challenged by World Amateur teammate Anya Tanpinco of Baguio.



Fashion Toe Socks

Now, here's Darlington Toe Socks - the hippest and coolest socks for your stylish get-ups! Perfect for kids and young teens looking for a good fashion trend! With different fantastic designs and colors, these socks will surely make you fit in the party crowd!

What are you waiting for? Buy one now!

BOYS



GIRLS



LADIES TEENS




"Ang Medyas na 'di Basta-basta!"

DARLINGTON SOCKS

Walang himalmal sa loob ng sakong



Who's Who in the Philippines 1994 Consumer Choice Awards



Asia Pacific Consumer Choice Awards



Annual National Consumer Awards



National Consumer Survey & People's Choice Award

Available at all leading department stores nationwide

Wins ITT shoot-out

for the 20-foot and another 135 total, south lay- entry Club man, the 13th eventual bogeys. He when a both upped entry here, went on to shoot a second straight 69 despite a bogey on 18 to be at 138, good for the P30,000 runner-up's purse.

Antonio Lascuña, tied for second at the start of the day with Sinfuego and Mars Pucay, salvaged a 70 despite two bogeys in the back nine for a third-best 139 and P20,000.

Juvie Pagunsan carded a 71 for a 139 total, holding off Canlubang teammate Boyet Saragoza for the amateur title and the luxury cruise prize that goes with it.

Journeyman Rey Alit struggled with a 79 but still won the Senior title by three shots with a 151 tally over a charging Felix Fernando. Alit won P35,000.

Fernando assembled the best round of the day among the players 50 years old and above, a 75 which had him vaulting from fourth to second place worth P20,000.

National swing coach Roger Retuerto steadied himself from a double bogey-bogey start to shoot a 78 and finish third. He won P12,500.

"It's going to be a merry Christmas for me and my family," said Villaroman, who is sponsored by Callaway. "It was a highly intense duel and coming out on top of something like that is worth a million bucks."

Deadlocked with two holes left, Villaroman hit a six-iron 20 feet past the flag on the 174-yard 17th. He made the putt to go

1-up.

He could have played safe on the last hole to protect his slim lead but opted not to.

After hitting 3-wood off the 18th tee, Villaroman went for the green in two, a 260-yard effort that landed on the fringe pin-high, sealing the outcome.

Cookie La'O and burly Robert Pactolerin had identical 69s and finished joint fourth with 141 tallies, one ahead of Pucay, who shot a 73.

Armando Eso (72), Ruben Sasutit (76) and Edwin Estrera (76) tied for fourth at 147, one ahead of Benjie Magada, who scrambled for a 73.

Bautista to risk title

AFRICAN Vayisile Bebe has stepped forward to challenge teenage boxing sensation Rey "Boom-Boom" Bautista in his first WBO Asia Pacific bantam defense set Jan. 29 at the air-conditioned Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Complex in Cebu.

The rugged, iron-jawed Bebe has been picked by pro-

motor Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani to test the mettle of the 18-year-old Bautista.

Bebe, a short and stocky 28-year-old ring gladiator, parades a record of 20 fights with 15-5 win-loss record, including 6 KOs.

"I have seen Bebe fight and he is a dangerous opponent," said Gello-ani.

Salven L. Lagunbay



The ultimate drive may be driven away.
Experience it at **Prestige Cars BMW.**

BMW Certified Pre-Owned

Sometimes brand is more important than new.

Only a BMW provides sheer driving pleasure. And only BMW Certified Pre-Owned cars guarantee the same reliability and driving pleasure as a new one because they pass through a strict selection process. Each BMW Certified Pre-Owned car is tested

- Is no more than 6 years old with a mileage of less than 120,000 kilometers
- Has been examined to have no history of any major accident
- Passed through a comprehensive 100-point checklist
- Is guaranteed to have only genuine BMW parts

Enjoy discounts and rebates at premium establishments as a Prestige Club BMW member.

Prestige Cars BMW (Makati) 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
CPO Direct Line (02) 8-27950 Trunkline (02) 892 8127 to 29

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1927 Series of 2004

BMW Certified Pre-Owned

BMW X5 3.0d Exec.
2004 Black Sapphire,
3,400km

25% down payment
24 months
0% interest

BMW 735Li
2004 Sterling Gray,
2,534km, P6,900,000

BMW X3 3.0i Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver,
5,600km, P3,850,000

BMW 530d Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver,
2,805km, P4,280,000

BMW 530d Exec.
2004 Black Sapphire,
1,120km, P4,650,000

BMW 325i Exec.
2004 Titanium Silver,
14,126km, P2,500,000

BMW 323i
2001 Titanium Silver,
27,580km, P1,450,000

BMW 318i MSport
2004 Black Sapphire,
3,000km, P2,200,000

BMW 318i MSport
2004 Titanium Silver,
2,500km, P2,200,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Black Sapphire,
2,320km, P2,150,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Steel Gray,
5,000km, P2,150,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Orient Blue,
8,480km, P2,100,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Orient Blue,
11,200km, P2,100,000

BMW 318i Exec.
2004 Alpine White,
5,000km, P2,075,000

BMW 316i
2004 Titanium Silver,
9,222km, P1,480,000

BMW 316i
2003 Titanium Silver,
18,000km, P1,450,000

BMW 316i
1996 Cosmos Black,
38,991km, P650,000

BMW 316i
1997 Cosmos Black,
64,000km, P650,000

BMW 318i
2002 Black Sapphire,
15,000km, P1,575,000

BMW 320iA
1997 Arden Silver,
67,000km, P720,000

BMW 320iA
1997 Cayuse Red,
64,000km, P725,000

BMW 323iA
2000 Titanium Silver,
45,130km, P1,350,000

BMW 525iA
1991 Cayuse Red,
43,018km, P550,000

BMW 523i
1997 Aspen Silver,
62,233km, P1,250,000



Fits your Active Lifestyle

MONSIEUR
MEN'S ACTIVE WEAR

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING DEPARTMENT STORES



The Avid Experience

Wide range of large TVs available.
Now's the best time to get one.

The Avid advantage this Christmas:
Enjoy 0% for 12 months on any of these TVs!

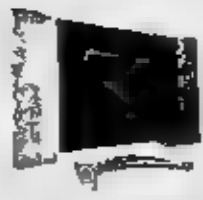
Panasonic
SAMSUNG
SHARP



*SAMSUNG SP-50L3HR
50" Projection TV-DNIE™
P219,000
0% 12 mos (P18,250/mo)
Free Samsung Camcorder SC-D103



*PANASONIC TX-43P800X
43" Projection TV-TAU G&A
P88,800
0% 12 mos (P7,400/mo)



*SHARP LC-20B6US
20" TFT HD-LCD TV
P98,999
0% 12 mos (P8,249.91/mo)



SAMSUNG CT-29M20MQ
29" Flat Screen-DNIE Jr.
P29,995 / Free TV Rack
0% 12 mos (P2,499.58/mo)



PANASONIC TC-29FJ30P
29" Flat TV-TAU
P27,800 / Free TV Rack
0% 12 mos (P2,316.66/mo)



SHARP 29V-FP350S
29" Pure Flat TV
P25,499 / Free TV Rack
0% 12 mos (P2,124.91/mo)

*Available only at Alabang Town Center, Rockwell, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Metro East and Ayala Center Cebu.
Abnaso Square Baguio (074) 4464520 • Ayala Center Cebu (032) 2333423, 2333418 • Alabang Town Center 8072598, 8073541 • Al Mall Cubao 6122048 • Galleria 6329110 to 11 • Robinsons Metro East 6422272 to 73 • Robinsons Place Inaang (045) 4215655, 4715655 • Rockwell 8981833, 8981828 • Robinsons San Fernando (045) 0167562 to 63

Visit www.avsurfer.com

AVSurfer

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

5TH WIN IN ROW

Shaq lifts Heat past Wizards

NEW YORK—Shaquille O'Neal scored a season-high 40 points and added 12 rebounds and five blocked shots to drive the host Miami Heat past the Washington Wizards, 106-83, Monday.

The Heat lost leading scorer Dwyane Wade with a sprained left ankle late in the first half, although the team said his absence was simply a precautionary measure.

O'Neal made up for the loss of Wade, netting 15 of his points in the final quarter as Miami won its fifth straight game, and seventh in a row against the Wizards.

Rasual Butler added 16 points as the Heat held the Wizards to 32 points in the first half, a season-low for Washington.

Butler also tied a career high with seven rebounds.

Eddie Jones claimed 14 points and Damon Jones contributed 12 points and nine rebounds.

Gilbert Arenas picked up 18 points for the Wizards, who lost for only the third time in 12 outings.

Kwame Brown added 16 points for Washington, which had been averaging 102.1 points per game.

In Memphis, LeBron James collected 31 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Grizzlies, 92-86.

James added eight assists and seven steals for the Cavs, who received an 18-point performance from Jeff McInnis. Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Pau Gasol led Memphis with 19 points while Lorenzen Wright totaled 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Mavericks 94, Bulls 93

In Chicago, Michael Finley scored 27 points as the Dallas Mavericks rallied to edge the Bulls, 94-93.

Dirk Nowitzki added 21 points and nine rebounds for the Mavs while Josh Howard had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Eddy Curry led Chicago with 20 points and Tyson Chandler had 12 points and 11 rebounds.

In Phoenix, Quentin Richardson poured in 26 points as the Suns improved to 18-3 with a 121-100 rout of the Orlando Magic.

Shawn Marion added 19 points and 10 rebounds while Amare Stoudemire had 21 points and Leandro Barbosa 19. Grant Hill's 23 points led Orlando.

In Los Angeles, Ricky Davis amassed 34 points as the Boston Celtics finally subdued the Clippers, 134-127, in double overtime.

Paul Pierce added 33 points for the Celtics, who scored 18 points in the second extra period.

Corey Maggette scored 34 points for the Clippers while Elton Brand had 24 points and 18 rebounds.

Pacers sign Curry

Indiana signed free agent forward Michael Curry on Monday.

Curry, a 10-year veteran, should help the Pacers deal with a roster that has been depleted due to suspensions and injuries. Last season he averaged 2.9 points and 1.2 rebounds in 70 games for Toronto.

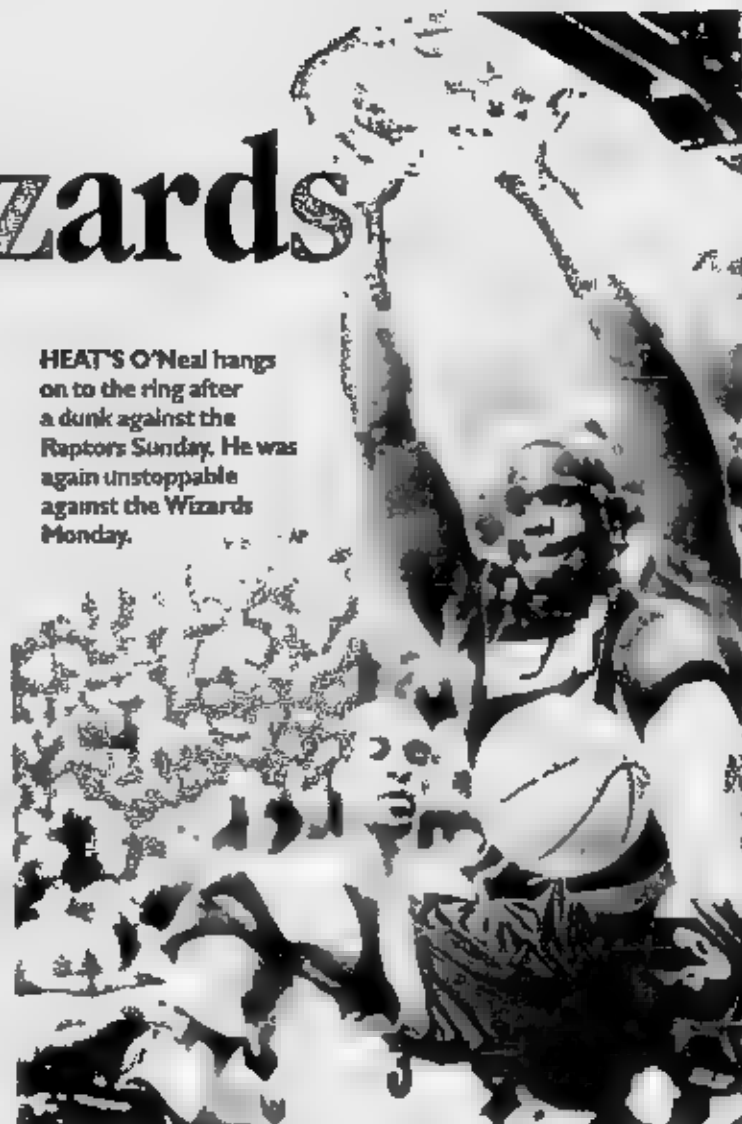
The 36-year-old Curry spent three seasons playing for Indiana head coach Rick Carlisle, while with the Detroit Pistons, between 2001-

The 6-foot-6 Curry—president of the NBA Players' Association—has also played with Philadelphia, Washington and Milwaukee.

The Pacers, who have lost seven straight, waived Tremaine Fowlkes to make room on the roster for Curry.

Reuters

HEAT'S O'Neal hangs on to the ring after a dunk against the Raptors Sunday. He was again unstoppable against the Wizards Monday.



YELENA ISINBAYEVA soars to one of her record-setting vaults.

YEARENDER

Pole vault star also sings, acts

LONDON—The Black Sea Cosacks choir backed by a full orchestra lent an exotic twist to the Brussels Golden League meeting in the week after the Athens Olympics.

To the delight of a noisy crowd who had enjoyed some splendid athletics, including two world records, the choir were joined on stage by Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva, who belted out an enthusiastic version of her national anthem.

Isinbayeva had set her seventh world record of the year while winning the gold medal in Athens. In Brussels she extended her mark another centimeter to 4.92 meters and picked up another \$100,000 bonus.

"I'm just a poor girl from Volgograd," she disarmingly explained to reporters before the start of the Olympic Games.

The women's pole vault is still a fledgling event and Isinbayeva confessed at the season-ending world athletics final that she had already exceeded five meters in training.

After making a fortune in world record bonuses, some of which went toward buying a new car, Isinbayeva was considerably richer at year's end and indisputably the women's athlete of the year.

Her unexpected concert appearance in Brussels reflected her vivacious personality, already clearly apparent when performing in the most theatrically spectacular event on the athletics program.

Athens showcased the old and the new with the core sport of the Games fully living up to its exalted status. It also provided a welcome respite from the Balco scandal, which had threatened to wreck track and field.

A federal investigation into the Californian laboratory, believed to be manufacturing and distributing the previously undetectable designer steroid THG (tetrahydrogestrinone), claimed some high-profile casualties but its tentacles did not spread as wide as originally feared.

However, it clearly affected Marion Jones, winner of three gold medals at the 2000 Sydney Games.

Jones' partner Tim Montgomery, the world 100-meter record holder, was investigated and eventually charged with serious doping violations as a result of the Balco inquiry.

Montgomery failed to make the Games' team and Jones, who was also investigated, qualified for the relay and long jump only, leaving Athens without a medal of any color.

Drugs scandals again scarred the Games, although there is credible evidence that the testers are starting to catch up with the cheats.

Greece's main medal hopes Costas Kenteris, the Sydney 200 meters champion and Katerina Thanou, the 100 silver medalist behind Jones in Sydney, withdrew after missing a scheduled drugs test on the eve of the opening rite. Reuters

Jewelers battle Snipers at home

CEBU CITY—What they managed to do on the road, the M. Lhuillier Jewelers would want to repeat at home.

The Jewelers stole Game One of their United Regional Basketball League title series yesterday from the Ilocos Snipers in Ilocos Sur, 80-77, to pull even at 1-1 as the championships shift to the New Cebu City Coliseum for Game Three at 6:30 p.m. today.

With Game Four also slated here tomorrow, the Jewelers are in a position to cut short the best-of-five affair at their home turf and earn the distinction as URB's inaugural titlist.

M. Lhuillier coach Raul "Yoyoy" Alcosaba believes the familiar confines of the Cebu Coliseum should serve them well.

"We will go all out for the win today and tomorrow," said Alcosaba, also a Cebu City councilor. "The players told me they don't want to go back to Ilocos Sur for Game Five and they'll give their best to finish the series here as an early Christmas gift to the Cebuano fans."

The Jewelers swept both matches against the Snipers here in Cebu City, the first on opening day, 78-68, last Sept. 25 and the second during the semifinals, 74-68, last Dec. 3.

Shevchenko: Footballer of the Year

ROME—Andriy Shevchenko, who was named as European Footballer of the Year on Monday, has been a revelation since he signed for AC Milan from Dynamo Kiev five years ago.

Combining pace and skill with great accuracy, the 28-year-old Ukrainian striker has scored 102 goals in Serie A, proving his 26 million pound (\$37.5 million euro) transfer fee was money well spent.

He became the first foreigner to top the scoring charts in a debut season in Italy with 24 goals in 32 matches.

Shevchenko matched that with another 24-goal haul in the following campaign to prove he was no one-season wonder.

His finest moment was scoring the winning spot-kick in the 2003 Champions League final penalty shoot-out against Juventus at Manchester's Old Trafford stadium.



SHEVCHENKO

Since 1999 and was rewarded with a contract extension that will keep him at the San Siro until 2009.

Before joining Milan, Shevchenko spent five seasons at Dynamo and enhanced his reputation as a prolific goalscorer on the Euro-

pean stage. He followed that by grabbing the only goal as Milan won the European Super Cup by beating Portuguese side Porto in Monaco.

Last season he was top scorer in Serie A with 24 goals which helped the club win the Italian league title for the first time.

He won five championships and two Ukrainian Cups with Dynamo before picking his bags for Italy.

Shevchenko is the talisman of the Ukraine national team, but despite playing in many qualifying matches he is yet to play in a major final tournament for his country. He married Kristen Pazik in July and became a father in October when his son Jordan was born. AFP

In the 1997/98 season he scored a first-half hat-trick in a stunning 4-0 win at the Camp Nou against Spanish giants Barcelona.

The following season Shevchenko scored eight goals to help the Ukrainians into the semifinals of the competition and his outstanding performances saw him come third in the poll for the 1999 Fifa World Player of the Year award.

He won five championships and two Ukrainian Cups with Dynamo before picking his bags for Italy.

Shevchenko is the talisman of the Ukraine national team, but despite playing in many qualifying matches he is yet to play in a major final tournament for his country. He married Kristen Pazik in July and became a father in October when his son Jordan was born. AFP

Protest steals thunder from PGC race

AS Empire King was cruising to victory in the 32nd Presidential Gold Cup last Sunday, another battle was raging in front of the Santa Ana Park.

A big group of horsemen was protesting against the alleged failure of the Philippine Racing Commission to address its concerns against mandatory EIA (equine infectious anemia) testing for the country's race horses.

Led by William Dagan, about 300 horse owners, trainers, grooms and supporters accused Philracom chair Jimmy Dilag—who was a no-show at the PGC along with honoree President Macapagal-Arroyo—of "ignorance" and of neglecting "what's best for the industry."

The group insisted the EIA order is unsubstantiated by facts.

Present globally for 50 years

"EIA, according to respected veterinarian Romeo Modomo, has been present globally and in the Philippines for almost 50 years, and yet

the racing industry has grown by leaps and bounds," Dagan said.

"In the US, only horses crossing state lines or being exported/imported are required to undergo the Coggins test."

Not transmittable to humans

Dagan claimed these horses comprise merely 20 percent of the total equine population while the remaining 80 percent are considered "members of the household" and not tested.

"In Third World countries, including China, the disease is ignored since it is not transmittable to humans and can only be transmitted among horses through flies, mosquitoes and needle-sharing," he said.

"That is why the Department of Agriculture's AO No. 5 of 1994 simply acknowledged the presence of EIA, while AO No. 17 of 2004 considered it a negligible disease since there has been no single documented death due to EIA. Thus, there

has been no call for drastic measures as EIA is not of epidemic proportions."

In their protest, the horsemen accused the Philracom officials of overreacting to the 1994 AO.

Dagan said the protests aim to save the industry from the "dictatorial machinations" of the Philracom aimed at pleasing its favored few.

500 workers displaced

As this developed, Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, upon the instructions of Mayor Jejomar Binay, met the protesters to hear their grievances against EIA testing, which has led to the displacement of about 500 Makati workers.

The group also urged Dilag and his fellow Philracom officials to avoid "squad tactics," claiming Dagan's horses, for example, can't be positive as he has refused to have his horses undergo the Coggins test to show his support for his peers severely affected by the alleged unlawful program.



MARTINEZ: \$56-million deal in the offing. AP

All-star pitcher Martinez to leave Red Sox for Mets

BOSTON—All-star pitcher Pedro Martinez, who led Boston to their first title in 86 years last season, is expected to leave the Red Sox and sign with the New York Mets, the Boston Herald reported on Monday.

The Herald reported that New York wooed the three-time Cy Young Award winner by guaranteeing him a fourth year on his contract, something the Red Sox reportedly would not do. The Mets' deal reportedly is worth \$56 million.

Martinez always had professed his fondness for pitching in Boston, where he won two of his Cy Youngs and was an integral part of the Red Sox's first championship team in 86 years.

Not the dominant pitcher he once was, Martinez went 16-9 with a 3.90 ERA—the

highest ERA of his career—this past season in helping the Red Sox to their first World Series title since 1918.

Martinez, 33, has gone an astounding 117-37 in seven seasons with the Red Sox. He won Cy Young Awards in 1999 and 2000, when he went a combined 41-10 with a 1.90 ERA.

Signing Martinez would be a major move for the Mets, who have been criticized in recent years for not aggressively pursuing stars such as Vladimir Guerrero and Alex Rodriguez.

Losing Martinez also would be a big blow for the Red Sox, who reportedly lost out in the Carl Pavano sweepstakes to the rival New York Yankees. Boston did sign 41-year-old lefthander David Wells but is not expected to re-sign Derek Lowe, who won all three clinching games in the postseason. AFP

Coseteng strong bet for Driver of Year title

JODY Coseteng looms as one of the strongest contenders for the Driver of the Year plumb in the 2nd Golden Wheel Awards following his overall victory in the 2004 National Touring Car Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.



Coseteng, driving for Caltex Havo-m-SMB Strong lee, accumulated a total of 142 points in the seven-round series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the P.

The DOY award will be handed out during gala rites in January. The Golden Wheel Awards will also honor the country's top motorsports achievers.

Coseteng clinched the title during the final leg of the NTCC in the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the BRC.

• Rey Reyes of Autoklasse settled for runner-up honors with 124 points, 18 behind Coseteng and three in front of the third-placed Dominic Bon in the series sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phils., Norisk Yamaha, Kilton Motors, and

JODY Coseteng (fourth from left) celebrates his 8th touring car title with Caltex Havoline team manager Paul Familiara (seventh from left), teammates Christian Aguilar (third from left), skipper Oscar Aguilar (fifth from left) and Dr. Pee-wee Mandiola (sixth from left) and supporters.

MOF Company.

Reyes, who is also backed up by Tropical Ice Sparkling Water, GBSI, Jose Añiling Inc., topped the Class B division with 159 points, 18 ahead of Bon. Oscar Aguilar of Caltex Havoline wound up third with 58.

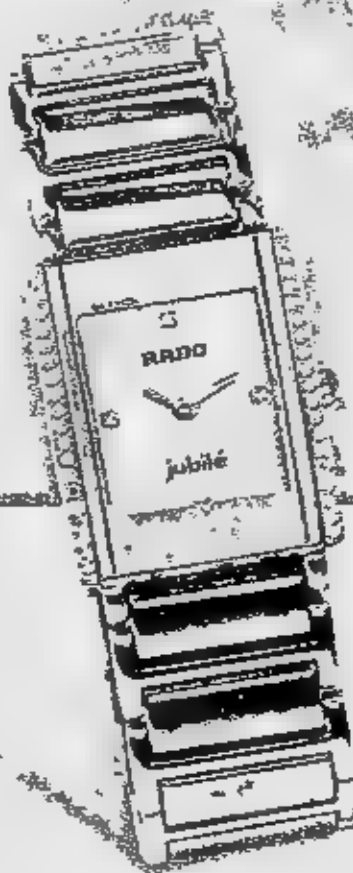
Miguel Lazaro copped the title in the National Junior Touring Car Championship with 178 points after sweeping the final races. Renan Morales finished second with 146 with lady driver Dahlia Guerrero settling for third (119).

Lazaro also claimed the Novice crown with 206 points over Morales (178) and Christian Aguilar of Cakex Havoline (118).



CEBU RACE WINNERS: Asia's Queen of the Road Mercedita Manopal and Athens Olympian Eduardo Buenavista (seventh and ninth from left, respectively) receive a giant check for P50,000 each from officials of Avia Performance Shoes after topping the Queen City Run, Asia's First Mardi Gras Run, in Cebu City recently. Manopal and Buenavista also won a pair of Avia's latest running shoes.

THINK DIFFERENT SHAPES



THINK DIFFERENT MATERIALS



RADO
SWITZERLAND

INTEGRAL SUPERJUBILÉ
High-tech ceramics
Scratchproof sapphire crystal
Case and dial with real diamonds
Triple safety class made of titanium



Also available at NoCarlow branches: SM City Pampanga (045) 963-3721 • SM City Cagayan de Oro (068) 859-1183 • SM City Davao (082) 297-3588

www.timing.com.ph

101 The Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City | Phone: (02) 687-3077

Also available at NoCarlow branches: SM City Pampanga (045) 963-3721 • SM City Cagayan de Oro (068) 859-1183 • SM City Davao (082) 297-3588

Engineered for excitement
The BMW X3.



The excitement of the BMW X3 is achieved by xDrive, BMW's world-first innovation of the four-wheel drive concept. With its powerful yet efficient range of 6-cylinder engines, the BMW X3 is a Sports Activity Vehicle (SAV) that combines outstanding driving dynamics with off-road capabilities.

Engineered for ownership.

30% down payment and 0% interest for 12 months.

Valid only from December 1-31, 2004.

DTI-NCN Permit No. 5834 Series of 2004

Autopagos UAW - 12345, Main Street, City - Tel: (02) 123 4567 - Fax: (02) 123 4567 Premier Cars BMW - 12345, Main Street, City - Tel: (02) 123 4567 - Fax: (02) 123 4567 Prestige Cars BMW - 12345, Main Street, City - Tel: (02) 123 4567 - Fax: (02) 123 4567

Bored with the usual Christmas gifts? Eto ang sagot diyan.



Now you can give Ringbacks to your family and friends!



Text GIVE <your friend's 11-digit Globe #> <CODE> to 2332.
Ex. GIVE 09171234567 RA155.

CHRISTMAS TUNES FROM OPM STARS

Christmas Wish/Rogina Velasquez	EA252
Paraisko/True Faith	EA253
A Perfect Christmas/Josel Mari Chan	EA254
Christmas in Our Hearts/Josel Mari Chan	EA255
Parol Ni Edgardo/Parol	EA256
Mr. Santa Three Kings/Parol	EA257
Sanse Wansan/Parol	EA258
Nache Santa/Madagascar	EA259
Olga Olga/Panama/Parol	EA260
Pamela Christmas/Vicente Navero	EA261
Stay With Me/MTB TV Dalls	EA262
Wazap Christmas/Anafelis	EA263
Pakita Na Sinta/Koi/Lee Solange	EA264
The Girl/Lee Solange	EA265
Pakita Na Sinta/Koi/Lee Solange	EA266
Santa Ngayon/Pakita Na Sinta/Koi/Lee Solange	EA267
One Dream/Sharin Canales	EA268
Last Years Christmas/Jenny Sanchez	EA269
Nakakaring/Pakita Na Sinta/Koi/Lee Solange	EA270
Santa Aray Aray/Pakita Na Sinta/Koi/Lee Solange	EA271
Wish Ko Sa Pasko/Santa Aray Aray	EA272
Happy Merry Christmas/Santa Aray Aray	EA273
O Holy Night/Jays	EA274
Haller Christmas/Anafelis James	EA275

CHRISTMAS TUNES FROM NFL STARS

My Only Wish/Brinary Spears	RA155
Winter Wonderland/Kerry G	RA156
Christmas Time Backstreet Boys	RA157
Single Like TLC	RA158
Winter Wonderland/Elvis Presley	RA159
The First Noel/Elvis Presley	RA160
O Holy Night/Christmas Angels	RA161
The Christmas Song/Christie Aquilino	RA162
This Time Next Year/Kate Brunson	RA163
Christmas Time is Here/Tina Turner	RA164
We Three Kings/Kenny G	RA165
Are There Any G	RA166
It's So Hard For Christmas/Kenny G	RA167
Little Drummer Boy/Kenny G	RA168
Silver Bells/Kenny G	RA169
The First Noel/Wendy Houston	RA170
Deck The Halls/Wendy Houston	RA171
Little Drummer Boy/Wendy Houston	RA172
Rock The Maracas/Janet Jackson	RA173
Let It Snow/Let It Snow	RA174
Do You Hear What I Hear/Janet Jackson	RA175
Season's Greetings/Kenny G	RA176
Christmas Song/Kenny G	RA177
Rock The Maracas/Janet Jackson	RA178
Let It Snow/Let It Snow	RA179
Do You Hear What I Hear/Janet Jackson	RA180

CHRISTMAS TUNES FROM NFL STARS

Winter Wonderland/Wing Country	EA276
The Song-A-Lang/Wing Country	EA277
Little Saint Nicholas/Wing Country	EA278
Let It Snow/Wing Country	EA279
Single Like TLC	EA280
Winter Wonderland/Elvis Presley	EA281
The First Noel/Elvis Presley	EA282
O Holy Night/Christmas Angels	EA283
The Christmas Song/Christie Aquilino	EA284
This Time Next Year/Kate Brunson	EA285
Christmas Time is Here/Tina Turner	EA286
We Three Kings/Kenny G	EA287
Are There Any G	EA288
It's So Hard For Christmas/Kenny G	EA289
Little Drummer Boy/Kenny G	EA290
Silver Bells/Kenny G	EA291
The First Noel/Wendy Houston	EA292
Deck The Halls/Wendy Houston	EA293
Little Drummer Boy/Wendy Houston	EA294
Rock The Maracas/Janet Jackson	EA295
Let It Snow/Let It Snow	EA296
Do You Hear What I Hear/Janet Jackson	EA297
Season's Greetings/Kenny G	EA298
Christmas Song/Kenny G	EA299
Rock The Maracas/Janet Jackson	EA300
Let It Snow/Let It Snow	EA301
Do You Hear What I Hear/Janet Jackson	EA302

CELEBRITIES

Single Like TLC	EA303
Winter Wonderland/Elvis Presley	EA304
The First Noel/Elvis Presley	EA305
O Holy Night/Christmas Angels	EA306
The Christmas Song/Christie Aquilino	EA307
This Time Next Year/Kate Brunson	EA308
Christmas Time is Here/Tina Turner	EA309
We Three Kings/Kenny G	EA310
Are There Any G	EA311
It's So Hard For Christmas/Kenny G	EA312
Little Drummer Boy/Kenny G	EA313
Silver Bells/Kenny G	EA314
The First Noel/Wendy Houston	EA315
Deck The Halls/Wendy Houston	EA316
Little Drummer Boy/Wendy Houston	EA317
Rock The Maracas/Janet Jackson	EA318
Let It Snow/Let It Snow	EA319
Do You Hear What I Hear/Janet Jackson	EA320
Season's Greetings/Kenny G	EA321
Christmas Song/Kenny G	EA322
Rock The Maracas/Janet Jackson	EA323
Let It Snow/Let It Snow	EA324
Do You Hear What I Hear/Janet Jackson	EA325

To download a Ringback, text the <CODE> to 2332. Example: Text RA155 to 2332.
To listen to a Ringback, text H <CODE> to 2332. Ex. Text H RA155 to 2332.
You will receive a text message to call 2332.

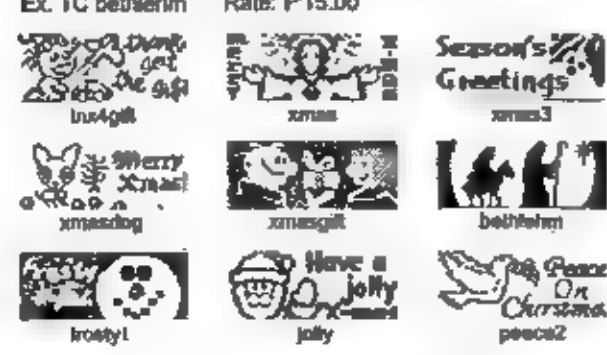
LOVE YOUR FRIENDS' RINGBACK? NOW YOU CAN COPY IT!
Send COPY <your friend's 11-digit Globe #> to 2332.
Ex. COPY 09171234567
Rates: P30 per download for 30 days. P2.50 per info request.
P5 a minute per call. For gift and copy: you will be charged P30.



Download any of these for a chance to win P600,000!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3107 Series of 2004. Prizes are exclusive of tax. See flyers for details.

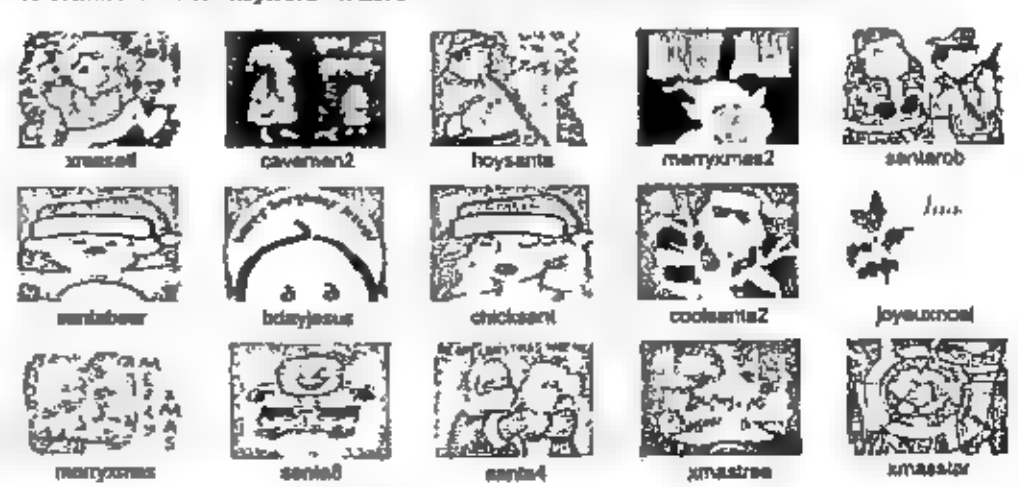
TEXT CARD
To give: text TC <keyword> <your friend's 11-digit Globe #> to 2375. Ex. TC bellheim 09171234567
To download: text TC <keyword> to 2375
Ex. TC bellheim Rate: P15.00



ICON
To give: text I <keyword> <your friend's 11-digit Globe #> to 2375. Ex. I carolers 09171234567
To download: text I <keyword> to 2375
Ex. I carolers Rate: P15.00



COLORED WALLPAPER
To give: text W <keyword> <your friend's 11-digit Globe #> to 2375. Ex. W santabar 09171234567
To download: text W <keyword> to 2375 Ex. W santabar Rate: P20.00



MONOTONES
To give: text M <keyword> <your friend's 11-digit Globe #> to 2375. Ex. M bellrock 09171234567
To download: text M <keyword> to 2375
Ex. M bellrock Rate: P15.00
POLYTONES
To give: text T <keyword> <your friend's 11-digit Globe #> to 2375. Ex. T bellrock 09171234567
To download: text T <keyword> to 2375
Ex. T bellrock Rate: P20.00

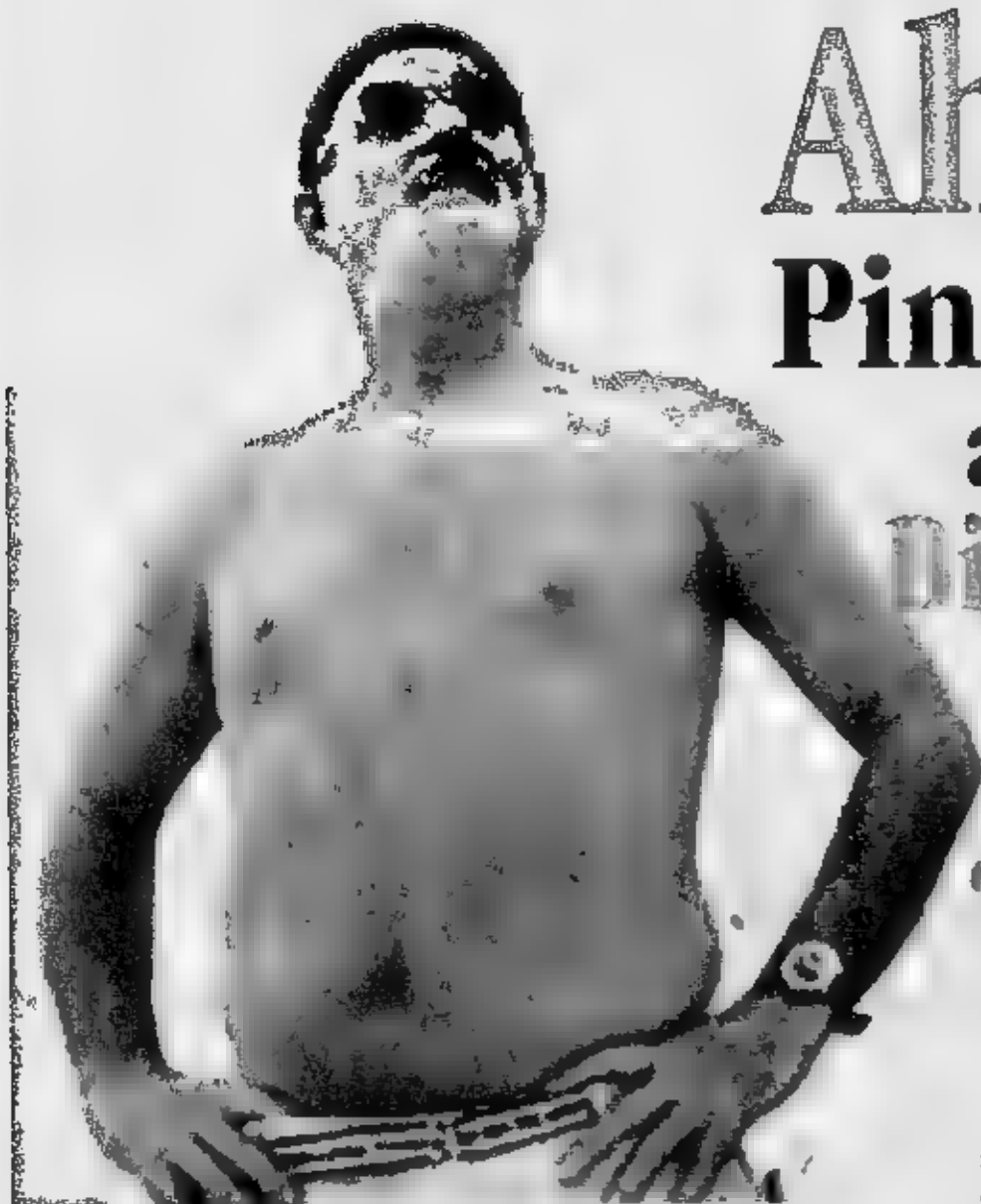
SONG TITLE	KEYWORD
Jingle Bell Rock	bellrock
Jolly Old St. Nicholas	jollyold
Twelve Days of Christmas	12days
O Christmas Tree	christmas
Rudolph	rudolph
Santa Claus is Coming to Town	santaclaus
Eight Mile	eightmile
We Wish You A Merry Christmas	wewishyou
The Chipmunk Song	chipmunk
The Christmas Song	xmasong

Text ON PASKO to 2375 • Daily infotext subscription on Yuletide Trivia. Free for the first seven days. After that, P2.50 per infotext.

'tis the season to make great things possible **Globe**

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: Inquirer.ent.nam/citymessage to 2287 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emma G. Valarde

Ahoy! Pinoy pirates aboard in new Bill Murray film

Those pirates who climbed on board the ship of Murray's oceanographer character were yelling in Filipino, all right, and I'll be darned, most of them look Filipino, too.

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOS ANGELES—So there I was at an advance press screening last month of Bill Murray's new film "The Life Aquatic" when pirates appeared onscreen and spoke in... Filipino?

I sat up and listened more carefully to make sure that I was not simply going crazy from

watching too many films because it was awards nomination time. Those pirates who climbed on board the ship of Bill Murray's oceanographer character (think Jacques Cousteau) were yelling in Filipino, all right, and I'll be darned, most of them look Filipino, too.

And, wait a minute, did one of the Caucasian actors just speak in my native tongue, too? Yes, indeed. And then the Pinoy pirates took him hostage and sped away in their boat.

I was enjoying this comedy-drama-adventure, but with the sudden appearance of Filipino bucaniers, I watched with rapt atten-

Indonesians, originally

Philippine fans of Wes Anderson's films, the acclaimed "The Royal Tenenbaums," "Rushmore" and "Bottle Rocket," will know what to expect in this movie which was partly filmed in Italy's famed Cinecittà studios. It's a quirky, wry, melancholic tale of an oceanographer



DIRECTOR Wes Anderson

and his eccentric crew and hangers-on (played by fine actors such as Owen Wilson, Anjelica Huston, Cate Blanchett, Willem Dafoe and Jeff Goldblum) who embark on a series of adventures involving a long-lost son, mythical sharks and, yes, Pinoy pirates.

But before some folks react rashly and protest why the pirates are Filipinos, a brief explanation may enlighten everyone. Sources at Disney, which distributes the film, said that in the original script of Anderson and Noah Baumbach, the pirates were Indonesians, not Pinoy. But apparently, in Italy, where the film was shot, the filmmakers couldn't find enough Indonesians to play the pirates. So guess who showed up in Rome and thus got cast instead?

A check of the book-bound script received by this writer confirmed that the pirates in the film were indeed supposed to be Indonesians. The script is littered with lines like "Bill can't address the pirates in Indonesian" and "Bill switches into rapid Indonesian."

Lovely guys

A day after the screening, when I met Willem Dafoe, who has been to the Philippines as a cast member of Oliver Stone's "Platoon" (he earned an Oscar best supporting actor nomination) and "Born on the Fourth of July," I asked him if he got to hang around with the Filipino actors.

"Yes, I did," Dafoe replied. "They were love-

AHoy! A23



Sony Ericsson

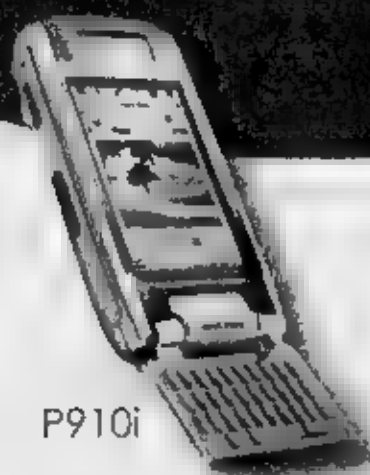
SEMICON

Lite & Easy 0% Mobile Mania

Now you can OWN your Sony Ericsson
dream phone.

nice & easy

Convenient payment schemes at 0% interest.



P910i



K700i



S700i



K500i



T630



610



T230



Z600



Z200

Inquire at the
Semicon branch near you
for the list of participating
credit cards

Semicon is an authorized dealer of Sony Ericsson.

SEMICON BRANCHES

SM Manila Level 4 SM City Manila 527-8740 • SM City North Ede Cyberpark Mall 925-4328 • SM Megamall 4/F SM Megamall Bldg. 8-638-8992 • Robinsons Power Plant 3/F Power Plant Mall, Makati 885-0262 / 886-2515 • The Podium 6/F The Podium Mall, Ortigas Ctr. 631-1812 • SM City Fairview Cebu Highway, D.C. 417-7561 • SM Southmall Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Pinas 808-9570 • Festival Supermall Filinvest Corporate Ctr., Alabang 807-5549 • Cyberone Mall Eastwood Eastwood, Libs. C.C. 667-8433 • SM Cornerpoint Araneta Ave., Sta. Mesa, Manila 714-3518 • SM City Pampanga Level 2, San Jose, San Fernando (045) 9512813 • SM Lucena 2055 Puris Street, Lucena City (042) 710 3550 • SM City Cebu 2nd Level, MRA, Cebu City (032) 2326424 • SM City Davao 3/F, Quinsola Blvd., Ecoland (082) 2981762

Promo period is from December 8, 2004 to January 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6938. Series of 2004

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FOXTROT

BY BILLAMEND A LUPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY

BY RM. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: People like you. You're upbeat, breezy, cheerful and easygoing. Your optimism is the key to your success. You expect the best, and you generally find it. One of the reasons people like you is because you make them feel good. (This is a rare gift.) Expect increased solitude in the year ahead to learn something important.

Birthdate of: Tim Conway, comic actor; Helen Slater, actress; Betty Smith, writer

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A female friend has good advice for you today. Listen to what is said, even if it sounds a bit outrageous, unorthodox or too modern for you. You can learn something.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Because you have an urge for adventure, do something out of the ordinary today. Visit shops or restaurants you've never been to before. Drive someplace new.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The Moon is opposite your sign today. Because of this, you might feel that someone opposes your ideas. In any event, be prepared to be cooperative and go more than halfway.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You will definitely do something that calls attention to you today. Just be aware of this. In fact, you might want to dress so that you look your best.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might have to discuss shared possessions or conflicting values with someone, probably a female. Learn to disagree in a peaceable way—one of mutual acceptance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You'll be pleased with any effort you make to get better organized today. You'll feel better if your surroundings are less cluttered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a lovely day for play, entertaining diversions, enjoying time with children, flirting with sweethearts, plus expressing your creative talents. You simply want to do your own thing!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Focus on home and family matters today. Talk to a parent, perhaps. Someone at home needs your attention. Take a moment to listen to what this person has to say.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a busy day! Short trips, buying and selling, shopping, plus discussions with siblings and relatives keep you on the go. Try to get as much done as you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Shopping will please you, especially buying things for yourself or female relatives. This is the kind of day when the going gets tough and the tough go shopping.

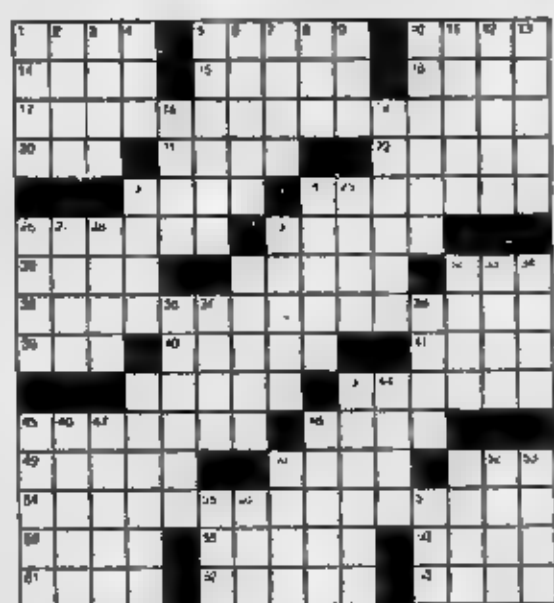
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The Moon is in your sign today. This both empowers you and makes you a bit more emotional at the same time.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are very strong when dealing with friends today. Because others find you sympathetic to their needs, they respond to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

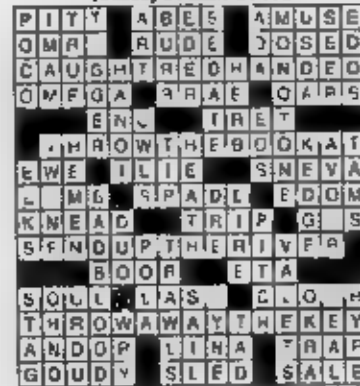
- 1 Goats' success
- 5 Supply food and service
- 10 Simpson boy
- 14 Lose heat
- 15 Sappho's last letter
- 16 To shelter
- 17 Irresistible charisma
- 20 Murs bus
- 21 Quahog
- 22 Flock members
- 23 Fiber source
- 24 Invention's protection
- 26 Naysaying president
- 29 Challenged
- 30 Mineral supplement
- 31 Mournful lament
- 32 Quilters' gathering
- 36 Physical well-being enhancement
- 38 Skion trail
- 40 Lazybones
- 41 Vathalla begm
- 42 Genis
- 43 I've got it
- 45 Achieves
- 46 Enuckle
- 49 Prickly plant
- 50 Harbor boats
- 51 Nonrenewable
- 54 Ready-made conduct
- 56 Gumbo ingredient
- 59 Dough reaser
- 60 Entrailed by
- 61 Former Russian leader
- 62 Solid ground
- 63 By Jove!



By Diane C. Baithrin
Columbus, MO

12/15/04

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



©2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

- DOWN
- 1 Fleat mark
- 2 Top-notch
- 3 Empty place
- 4 Shade provider
- 5 Mab
- 6 Capital of Jordan
- 7 Harnessed palf
- 8 Rotten
- 9 Flower
- 10 Soaked oneself
- 11 Foreigner
- 12 Bowler's button
- 13 Short-term workers
- 18 Field measure
- 19 Admiration
- 23 Lide
- 24 Dry out
- 25 Jason's ship
- 26 Moral weakness
- 27 Messes up
- 28 Boot lps
- 29 Eating regimens
- 31 Sharp decrease
- 32 Foreshadow
- 33 Actor Estrada
- 34 Sicken spouter
- 35 Casual top
- 37 Lide, Russia
- 38 Edeat, for one
- 42 Roman emperor
- 43 Half a quarter
- 44 Heavenly bear
- 45 Monetary head
- 46 Difficult journeys
- 47 Jeweled headband
- 48 Invitation holder
- 50 Slope apparatus
- 51 Be a stool pigeon
- 52 Whir
- 53 Spur on
- 56 Soap ingredient
- 58 Approval vote
- 59 Conend

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBING



Ahoy! Pinoy pirates aboard in new Bill Murray film



"THE LIFE AQUATIC" co-stars Anjelica Huston and Jeff Goldblum



OWEN Wilson and Willem Dafoe

From page A2-1

ly guys. I really liked them a lot. They came from the Filipino community in Rome. They were great. They were all good sports. We shot most of those scenes near Civitavecchia. They weren't all Filipinos, though. There were some Japanese guys in there."

Did he get to talk about his filming experiences in the Philippines with the Rome-based Pinoy who suddenly found themselves acting in a Bill Murray movie?

Dafoe answered, "Oh, sure. They were aware that I had been there a couple of times so we talked about the Philippines. I haven't been there in a while. I'm sure that it has changed so much since I've been there but I'd love to go back."

Later, he asked me, "Was the Tagalog [Filipino] spoken in the film good?"

Using muscles

A paragraph in the film's production notes describes how Bud Cort, who was in the classic comedy "Harold and Maude" and who plays the Filipino-speaking white guy in the movie, learned to speak the Philippine national language: "Throwing himself into the role, Cort even spent weeks learning the [Filipino] language so he could converse with the Filipino actors kidnapping him. It's a beautiful tongue," he notes. "It involves using muscles in your mouth and throat that you would never think of using."

"The Life Aquatic" opened in the US Friday to mostly good reviews. Los Angeles Times critic Carina Chocano praised the film and mentioned the Filipino pirates in this context: "On the face of it, Wes Anderson's new movie, 'The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou,' is an adventure tale about a Jacques Cousteau-on-the-skids-type who decides to pull an Ahab on the shark that ate his buddy. But mostly, like all Wes Anderson movies, it's about being 11 1/2—it's a recurring motif, anyway—something around the late '70s, an age-era axis favored by Anderson and at least partly attributable to his current age of 35."

"An exquisitely evocative movie that elevates rueful melancholia to a superpower, 'The Life Aquatic,' co-written with Noah Baumbach, is not exactly a plot-lover's pizza."

"No doubt this endorsement isn't inspiring fans of Spielberg to leap off the couch and get on the horn with MovieFone—although Murray does single-handedly take on a band of Philippine pirates in a scene that's a surreal version of somebody's dream about 'Apocalypse Now.' But this shark movie, which alludes to the other shark movie, which along with 'Star Wars' is responsible for blockbus-



"SHARK MOVIE." One critic calls Murray the "patron saint of inchoate yearning and exquisite disappointment"



CATE Blanchett

tering into oblivion the best decade American movies ever saw, has something to say about that, too. Not for nothing is the dead guy played by '70s icon Seymour Cassel, while Bud Cort of 'Harold and Maude' fame is bound and gagged by pirates.

Meandering pace

"On the other hand, if you've already glued a statuette of Bill Murray, patron saint of inchoate yearning and exquisite disappointment, to your dashboard, nothing about 'The

Life Aquatic' will disappoint. Because talk about man against the universe."

A. O. Scott, in his review for The New York Times, wrote, "As someone who was more annoyed than charmed by 'Tenenbaums,' I should have been completely exasperated with 'The Life Aquatic,' with its wispy story and wonder-cabinet production design, but to my surprise I found it mostly delightful. Some of this has to do with Bill Murray, who occupies nearly every frame of the picture, usually sighing and frowning right in the middle of the screen... If you allow yourself to surrender to 'The Life Aquatic,' you may find that its slow, meandering pace and willful digressions are inseparable from its pleasures."

Variety critic Robert Koehler penned a dissenting review: "The affectionately confused life that usually pulsates a Wes Anderson film has drifted out to sea in 'The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou.' During one of his trysts with Jane (Cate Blanchett), Ned (Owen Wilson) abandons his watch on deck and doesn't see Filipino pirates board the ship and kidnap meek bond company rep Bill (Bud Cort), who speaks [Filipino]. Not only does Steve (Bill Murray) pull off a ridiculously-staged, one-man Dirty Harry attack on the fleeing pirates, but this bit gets extended into a mission to rescue Bill from a deserted resort island."

Merry Christmas

Shopping at M.

COMMERCIAL COMPLEX
Makati Cinema Square

Circus de Comedia
MAGICIANS, CLOWNS, JUGGLERS & more
Dec. 16 & 18 / 4 - 6 pm / Atrium stage

Naughty & Nice MUSICAL
D' BODIES & JEFFREY HIDALGO
Dec. 22 / 5 pm / Atrium stage

FIREWORKS
Dec. 16, 18, 22, 23 & 30
7 pm / Amoroso Exit

CAROLERS
Dec. 16, 17, 20 & 23
5 - 6 pm / Atrium stage

MCS Commercial Complex
C. No. Rocas and A. Amaz Streets, Makati City / Triunfo 814 40 00

INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARSLESS VIEWS

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Canon

Canon Wedding Photo Contest

in cooperation with:

ebv media MASTER

CANON EOS-1D MARK II DSLR
CANON EOS 10D KIT
CANON EOS 300D KIT
CONSOLATION PRIZES - PHP 2000 worth of Gift Certificates

WEDDING MARCH 22-23, 2005
January 22-23, 2005

Canon Wedding Photo Contest is presented by Japan Philippines in cooperation with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and ebv media master

See'em all!

AYALA CINEMAS THE

Movie/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GREENBELT 1	G4 GREENBELT 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 BAD SANTA	1 GEORGE & THE DRAGON	1 THE POLAR EXPRESS	5 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	2 PASIYAM	2 BIRTH	6 BAD SANTA	2 PASIYAM
3 BIRTH		3 2046	7 NATIONAL TREASURE	3 OUT OF REACH
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS	3 HONEY	GB1 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON		4 MAY
5 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 HAROLD & KUMAR	2 BAD SANTA	5 NATIONAL TREASURE	5 TAXI

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
NO FAKES: THE CONCERT (Artists Against Piracy Concert) December 13 to 15 2004	BLIMP/AUTOMATIC CENTER December 13 to 26, 2004	SANTA CLAUS FROM FINLAND PHOTO SESSION & STORY TELLING December 14 to 16 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LINE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES EVERY THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS (7-10pm) PISO (THU) ACOUSTIC JIVE (FRI) FIRST CIRCLE (SAT)	CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT GREENBELT 3 The Company (Dec. 17 8pm), Philippine Madrigal Singers (Dec. 19)

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents THE WIZARD OF OZ at REP's GLOBE THEATER - November 13 to December 19 2004

Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117

AYALA MUSEUM

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 753-7777; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12am • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 ext. 374 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

A24

ENTERTAINMENT

Hot bands, cool nights at Hard Rock Café

WARM UP the cool month of December with the hottest bands energizing your evenings with fun and merriment at Hard Rock Café on the 3rd level of Glorietta 3 in Makati.

Hard Rock's December



schedule of bands consists of Mondays with Prime Council, Tuesdays with Melt, Wednesdays with Circus, Thursdays with Intense, Fridays with Melt again, Saturdays with Silk, and Sun-

days with The Boss.

Tonight, Dec. 15, Hard Rock Café celebrates an anniversary, with the Radio 99.5 RT Ballroom Drop featuring South Border and Sun Valley Crew at 9 p.m.

The show is sponsored by Jagermeister, Chivas Regal, Dickies Jeans USA, Lipton Ice Tea

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Roca, Laguna) tel (049) 637-0926	Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545-7292	Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5082 to 03
1 RESERVED 2 RESERVED 3 RESERVED	1 OUT OF REACH 2 TOOLBOX MURDER 3 POLAR EXPRESS 4 PA-SIYAM 5 BRIDGET JONES	1 CELLULAR 2 PA-SIYAM 3 FIRST DAUGHTER 4 THE FORGOTTEN
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545-7383	Mega Center Mall (Calamba City) tel (044) 463-3283	Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 PA-SIYAM 2 BRIDGET JONES 3 OUT OF REACH 4 POLAR EXPRESS	1 BGLUZ OF J 2 SAW 3 TAXI 4 OUT OF REACH	1 PA-SIYAM 2 CELLULAR 3 THE FORGOTTEN 4 FIRST DAUGHTER
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411-1146	Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981-0790	Cine Nepo (Baguio City) tel (075) 525-8489
1 OUT OF REACH 2 BRIDGET JONES 3 POLAR EXPRESS 4 PA-SIYAM	1 DARKNESS 2 OUT OF REACH 3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS 4 THE SIN	1 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS 2 SAW 3 FOREGOTTEN 4 NATIONAL TREASURE
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (043) 568-6771	Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Iloilo) tel (045) 882-3729	Centre Plaza Cinema (Bacolod, Balamb) tel (047) 237-7907
1 FIRST DAUGHTER 2 BGLUZ OF J 3 NATIONAL TREASURE	1 SAW 2 FOREGOTTEN 3 ALEXANDER 4 POLAR EXPRESS	1 SKY CAPTAIN 2 SHARK TALE
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Marikina) tel (044) 7953329	Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Marikina) tel (044) 7953329	Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Marikina) tel (044) 7953329
1 PA-SIYAM 2 ALEXANDER 3 POLAR EXPRESS	1 PA-SIYAM 2 ALEXANDER 3 POLAR EXPRESS	1 PA-SIYAM 2 ALEXANDER 3 POLAR EXPRESS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

REGIONAL CINEMAS

STA. ROSA	LIPA
1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS 2 DARKNESS 3 THE FORGOTTEN 4 SEED OF CHUCKY 5 NAKAW NA SANDALI	1 PA-SIYAM 2 ALEXANDER 3 SEED OF CHUCKY 4 BRIDGET JONES 2 5 ONE MISSED CALL
DASMARINAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332	ANGELES (045) 882-2348
1 THE FORGOTTEN 2 DARKNESS 3 BUKAS MAY UMAGA 4 CELLULAR 5 MAY	1 OUT OF REACH 2 TAXI 3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS 4 THE GRUDGE
IMUS (046) 876-3838 (046) 471-8188	STARMILLS (045) 875-1822 (045) 881-5270
1 HELLWOLF 2 BIRTH 3 NANG NAK 4 SHREK 2 5 NATIONAL TREASURE 6 NED KELLY	1 AFTER THE SUNSET 2 TAXI 3 SAPLOT 4 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS 5 ALEXANDER 6 DARKNESS
BACOLOD	ILOILO
1 THE POLAR EXPRESS 2 BRIDGET JONES 2 3 NATIONAL TREASURE 4 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS 5 CELLULAR 6 AFTER THE SUNSET	1 WHITE CHICKS 2 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS 3 NATIONAL TREASURE 4 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS 5 SAW 6 DARKNESS

SHOW STOPPER

Pink Yule with gay choir

PRIDE Manila Chorus, the Philippines' first out-of-the-closet gay male chorus, joins seven other mixed-gender choirs in the special concert "A Merry Novo Christmas 2004" at the Cultural Center

The concert is produced by the Novo Concertante group as part of its mission to make Filipinos more appreciative of choral music, and to recruit fresh talents and train them towards higher artistic excellence.

Pride Manila Chorus is Manila's answer to the popular gay male choirs all over the world such as the New York City Gay Men's Choir, the Rainbow Voices Singers.

This is Pride Manila's first public concert, which hopefully will pave the way for its grand concert early next year.

Pride Manila Chorus was born out of a need to advocate equal rights and acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people by the Filipino society through the power of music and outreach projects.

The choir is a joint effort of the Gay Men's

ProGay Philippines.

Tickets to "Merry Novo Christmas 2004" are available at the CCP box office, tel. 832-3704 to 06, and Ticketworld

Bookings for Pride Manila Chorus performances can be arranged with the GMSG E-mail barneyard@yahoo.com, or call Oscar at 367-3109 or Bryan at 0927-

Beckhams attacked, but 'Jesus is fine'

LONDON — A protester has attacked a controversial wax-work nativity scene featuring England soccer captain David Beckham as Joseph and his pop star wife "Posh Spice" Victoria as the Virgin Mary.

"He pushed Posh and Becks over," said a spokeswoman for Madame Tussaud's wax-work museum in London on Monday. "It caused some damage but we don't know how much. The baby Jesus is fine."

Anglicans, Catholics and Presbyterians have united in calling the exhibit a new low in the cult of celebrity worship.

But Madame Tussaud's said it was popular with the public, who were outraged at Sunday's vandalism.

"People were appalled," said the spokeswoman. "We had members of the public complaining that the nativity was the only reason they were coming in today."

"Staff gave chase but the attacker managed to escape," she added. "We are hoping to reopen the exhibit as soon as possible."

Controversy over the nativity has caused great mirth in British media. The Sun newspaper even instituted a dial-in line on Monday for anyone who might be able to identify the attacker.

In the wax tableau, Australian pop star Kylie Minogue hovers above the crib as an angel while Victoria lays her shawled head tenderly on Beckham's shoulder.

Tony Blair, George W. Bush and the Duke of Edinburgh star as The Three Wise Men. The shepherds are played by Hollywood star Samuel L. Jackson, British actor Hugh Grant and camp Irish comedian Graham Norton.

Madame Tussaud's have apologized for any offense caused, but insist the tableau was intended only as a tongue-in-cheek way of bringing the nativity to a wider audience.

The Beckhams disassociated themselves from the nativity, saying they had no idea they were to be depicted that way.

Reuters

OPENS TODAY!

Find out why the critics are laughing out loud!

"One of the year's best films!"

"Lewd, raunchy & likely to spawn a sequel or two."

"It's freakin' hilarious."

"an epic pothead movie with laughs and smarts"

"Made me laugh loud and often as much if not more than any other movie I've seen this year."

"When the 90 minutes are up, you'll likely wonder why you laughed so hard and so often at something so silly."

"Laugh-out-loud!"

"This new comedy offers 'American Pie' type teen humor."

"... an instant stoner classic."

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?"

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle

THIRD WEEK - NOW SHOWING

ONE OF THE BIGGEST FILMS OF THE YEAR! NOW BREAKING BOXOFFICE RECORDS IN MANILA!

"A sweeping historical epic that confirms Oliver Stone's position as one of Hollywood's master storytellers"

"Phenomenal!"

"Monumentally ambitious, Oliver Stone's Alexander accomplishes the twin objectives of the epic biopic."

"Boldly acted, absorbing and satisfying as a history lesson."

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

"Alexander is a masterpiece"

ENTERTAINMENT

Negative effects of television

(Conclusion)

SOME parents and educators are leery of other negative effects of television on young viewers, like the medium's tendency to make children less resourceful.

For instance, a father recalls that, when he was a kid, he and his friends "were always thinking up things to do like games, projects and trips. Today, my children keep complaining that they have nothing to do. They're simply lazy. If someone doesn't entertain them, they can happily sit there

watching TV all day!"

Another negative effect of this impinges on the "lazy" television children themselves. They sense their parents' disappointment in them, believe they are deficient and feel that this makes them less worthy of admiration and respect. So, it's a lose-lose situation all the way.

Television, when viewed too much, has an adverse effect on children's achievement in school. One study, for instance, shows that younger children who watch more TV than others, have lower

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



scores in reading and achievement tests.

Other observers fret that, to some extent, many viewers are addicted to the experience of watching TV. True, it isn't as severe as smoking or addiction to alcoholic drinks, but some of its consequences are also cause for

TV is similarly faulted for creating or intensifying stereotypes. Researchers observe that many programs "promote suspicion, intolerance and even violence against those who are different. Racial and ethnic stereotypes are common. 'Bad guys' are often from foreign countries and speak with foreign-sounding accents."

Women are also depicted in unenlightened ways on the small screen. They are characterized "predominantly as victims of violent crimes. Worse, in many shows, the plotlines depict women as 'asking for abuse.' And, when women are shown in a

'power role,' they're usually cast as vengeful, deceitful and manipulative people who are doomed to failure."

In addition, TV precociously exposes children to excessive sexuality. For instance, the American Psychological Association estimates that teenagers in the US are exposed to 14,000 sexual references and innuendos per year on TV! Of these, only 150 deal with responsibility or abstinence.

Also, implied sexual activity on television occurs "most often between unmarried couples with little commitment to one another." This sends the wrong signals to impressionable young viewers.

Finally, children are desensitized through violent TV shows and video games. According to Japanese researchers, children exposed to video violence more frequently than others tend to be more aggressive, competitive and hyperactive.

They note that video games enable players to win points largely by killing opponents. No points are awarded for problem-solving, meditation or cooperative behavior.

These potential negative effects of television on younger viewers are so worrisome that a

number of psychologists urge that children younger than two and a half years of age shouldn't watch TV at all; children older than two and a half years but younger than four years should watch TV only half an hour a day, and children aged four years should watch only one hour of TV each day. What do you think?

Feedback

From Lorenzo S. Abacan of Meycauayan, Bulacan: "If we adults must be careful about the TV shows our children watch, we should also worry about the commercials they view."

"For instance, a commercial about a dishwashing product has a man being chided by his friend for eating smelly food, the strong smell of which his wife dislikes."

"But the man says his wife won't know the truth because the dishwashing product does not leave any trace of odor of the food on the dishes and kitchen utensils he used."

"True enough, when the wife investigates, she fails to find any evidence that her husband has eaten the 'forbidden' food."

"Although the commercial points out how impressive the

product's cleaning strength is, it also intimates that there is nothing wrong about telling a lie, as long as you don't get caught."

"TV commercials like this appear to be harmless, but we have to realize that constant exposure to them, especially for children who are still naive and uncritical, could contribute to the malformation of their values."

'Lam-ang'

Romance, action and adventure abound in "Lam-ang," a rousing new musical by Von de Guzman, directed by Ricky Abad for Tanghalang Ateneo, on Dec. 15-18. Call 426-6001 loc. 5121, or visit <http://www.tanghalang-ateneo.org>.

"Lam-ang" is about a precocious Ilocano lad who embarks on a journey to find his father, his fortune, a suitable wife and the acceptance of his Christian neighbors. Along the way, he mows down an entire tribe of headhunters, romances several maidens and battles a ferocious shark.

Underneath all the excitement and escapades lies a quest for identity in a changing world, to which everyone, particularly the youth, can relate.

NOW SHOWING

RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE

"AN INSTANT CHRISTMAS CLASSIC"

★★★★ DAZZLING!
—Ringer Films, CINCINNATI SUN-TIMES

"THE BEST FAMILY FILM THIS YEAR."
—Allyson Bruecker, WASHINGTON PARENT

"A JOURNEY THAT LEADS STRAIGHT TO THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS."
—Jeanne Wolf, HOLLYWOOD



TOM HANKS

THE POLAR EXPRESS

DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY FILM OF THE SEASON

ALIW award nominee for best dance group, The GoGirls will dance up a storm tonight with sexy male celebrities



GoGirls, Tuesday, Andrew E at Ratsky

IF YOU were an all-girl group with a 2004 AliW Award nomination for best dance group and a triple platinum award from Star Records, what would you do to rev up your Christmas while get-

ting your own album ready? Stage a major concert, what else?

That is precisely what The GoGirls, proponents of the "Otso-Otso" dance craze, are about to do.

Together with sister group The Flawless Girls of "MTB Ang Saya-saya," The GoGirls will hear up the pre-Christmas nightlife with "Sexy, Naughty, Bitchy Wel," a dance-comedy-fashion show with special guests Tuesday Vargas and Andrew E at Ratsky Tomas Morato on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 9 p.m.

Temperatures will rise as the girls give a nonstop show of beauty, music and energetic dance moves. While the girls heat you up, the irrepressible beats of novelty rapper and hit-maker Andrew E and the hilarious comedy of Tuesday Vargas will set your Christmas season on fire.

Hyubs, Justin de Leon of the Viva Hot Men, Mike Chan and Bobby Yan of "Chowtime Nai" complete the lineup, together with other surprise male celebrities.

"Sexy, Naughty, Bitchy Wel" is for the benefit of the Kausabang Buhay Foundation or KBF. KBF is a private, nonprofit, child and family welfare organization based in Quezon City.

It is the only nongovernment organization in the Philippines implementing local adoption. It also manages day care centers, offers services for single mothers, foster care facilitation and educational assistance for independent living.

Visit their website at <http://moz.com/~kbf>.

The show is produced by Got2Go Ven2res Inc. and Alternative Public Relations and Events Live Science with Wave 89.1, Fanny Serrano Salon Greenhills and Jancen Medical Spa as major sponsors. It is also supported by Gold's Gym, MV Virgin Mary of MBRS Lines Hucky Industrial Enterprises and Webstar Philippines Entertainment.

For tickets, call Got2Go Ven2res at 453 9420, 0920-9253231 or 0917-3201166.

MTRCB R-13

2046

NOW SHOWING

star group of cinemas movie guide

starmall

3 Santa

4 Ned Kelly

5 Salat sa Ligaya

6 Bad Santa

Metropolis

1 Salat sa Ligaya

2 Honey

3 Santa

4 Ned Kelly

5 Bad Santa

starmall

1 Polar Express

2 Santa

3 Santa

4 Santa

5 Ned Kelly

6 Bad Santa

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

MTV USA hired Gary Valenciano to be the main performer last Oct. 27 before about 1,500 American chief executives officers of AOL, Xerox, iLore, General Mills and other corporations in the event called "Diversity Best Practices" gala and awards dinner in Washington DC. Gory V sang "Spain,"

DID YOU KNOW...

among others. Also in the audience at the Marriott Wardham Hotel were US Secretary Norman Mineta and 2004 Miss America Ericka Dunlap.

SM Cinemas

WELCOMES you to

moviepickoftheWeek

PETER PAN AND THE TIME MACHINE

I whattowatch I

ALEXANDER Subject to MTRCB RATING

SM Bacoor Cinema 4

BRIDGET JONES 2

SM Davao Cinema 3

SM Baguio Cinema 3

SM Cagayan Cinema 2

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS

SM Pampanga Cinema 3

SM Davao Cinema 4

SM Cebu Cinema 5

SM Iloilo Cinema 5

NATIONAL TREASURE

SM Bacoor Cinema 5

SM Cagayan Cinema 3

SM Iloilo Cinema 3

SM Cebu Cinema 2

SM Pampanga Cinema 3

THE POLAR EXPRESS

SM Bacoor Cinema 6

SM Cagayan Cinema 1

SM Baguio Cinema 1

SM Lucena Cinema 1

SM Pampanga Cinema 2

SURVIVING CHRISTMAS

SM Iloilo Cinema 4

SM Batangas Cinema 4

Movies are subject to change without prior notice. For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com



For more information, call 171 or visit us online at www.pldt.com.ph

CALL 171

Magiging na ang hiling kang Christmas Reunion!!



Tawag Mo!

Pang-Reunion Ninyo

P75 PLDT IDD call mo, magaring reunion nyo dito o saan mang bansang hinagug mo!

Simpleng PLDT IDD tawag mo, baka reunion na ninyo!

- Every P75 worth of PLDT IDD call mo, magiging sa 'yo ag 1 raffle entry. Mas marami at mas masagol sa tawagna, mas maraming entries!
- Pwede kang manalo ag REUNION package: 2 roundtrip tickets (worth P200,000) to the called destination or bring in called party back to the Philippines.
- Or pwedeng malibre ka sa PLDT bill mo! Just fully pay your PLDT bill on time at pwede kang maging one of the 18 BILL WIFE-OUT winners. Susundin ang bill mo, sagot namon! (max. P8,000)

Kaya tawag kang ng tawag abroad with PLDT IDD, para sa pinaka-malinaw at murang kumustahan, at para reunion na pangarap mo, mapasa-inyo!!



PLDT

ACCENT-MICRO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Need IT-solutions services? Call us.

- Network Engineering
- System Administration
- Database Administration
- Hardware Maintenance
- Software Support
- IT & Network Support
- IT & Network Support
- IT & Network Support

Accent-Micro Technologies, Inc. is a leading provider of IT solutions and services. We have a team of experienced professionals who can help you with all your IT needs. Call us today at 020-858 1234.

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



Acer Multimedia Projectors

PD112

- DLP™ Projection System
- SVGA (800 x 600)
- SXGA (1280 x 1024)
- 2000:1 Contrast Ratio
- 1,300 ANSI lumens
- 4.9 lbs. (2.2kg)

P 75,900.00

acer

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: Inquirer biz news/citymessage to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

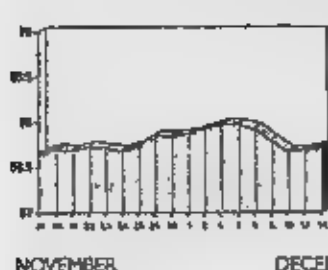
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Plans up to turn revenue units into GOCCs

INDICATORS CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 56.275 = \$1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 14, 2004

₱ 104.83 = \$1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 14, 2004

GOLD: \$ 439.30-439.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 14, 2004

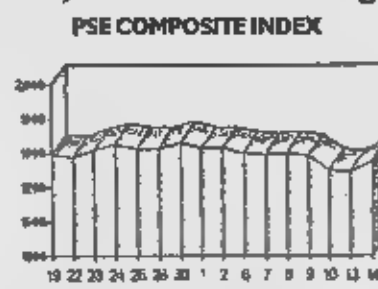
STOCK MARKET

Stocks up on rebound, window dressing



SHARES ended higher yesterday on a technical recovery after three sessions of losses, aided by year-end window dressing by investors, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed up 27.40 points, or 1.6 per-



(See stock market report on Page B2)

cent. at 1,775.73 following three straight sessions of declines that pared 2.9 percent from the index.

Gainers led decliners 42 to 17, while 46 stocks were unchanged. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, up 2 percent at P1,260, in step with the 2-percent rise of its American depositary receipts in New York Monday.

The rise of PLDT receipts added to Wall Street's rally, with the Dow Jones Industrial average ending up 0.9 percent and the Nasdaq composite index gaining 1 percent.

Other stocks that recovered from the recent sell-off were Ayala Land, which closed up 1.5 percent at P6.70, and Globe Telecom, which rose 3.4 percent to P915.

San Miguel 8 was up 4 percent at P78.50 on mounting interest in the food and beverage conglomerate's upcoming stock offering, details of which will be announced next month.

The market's fate also depends on how fast the Philippine government implements fiscal reforms, traders said.

"The passage of the 'sin' taxes would improve market sentiment and raise hopes that government can successfully put in place much needed fiscal reform measures before ratings agencies make their move," said Citiseconline.com investment analyst Mark Alan Canizares.

The so-called sin taxes are levied on tobacco and alcoholic products, and form part of the government's package of tax measures to address its yawning budget deficit.

By Michelle V. Remo

A PROPOSAL that will transform the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs into government-owned and-controlled corporations is expected to be filed with the Senate soon.

This is to pave the way for the approval and implementation of the proposed lateral attrition system, which will allow the government to fire under-performing revenue collectors.

The lateral attrition proposal, however, is being opposed by certain sectors on grounds that it would violate civil service laws.

A Finance official said Sen. Edgardo Angara had expressed intention to draft his own version of the lateral attrition bill to include provisions that would transform the two major revenue collection agencies of the government into GOCCs.

If the BIR and the BOC were turned into GOCCs, the legality of the lateral attrition bill could not be questioned anymore, the finance official said.

Angara raised this proposal during last week's hearing on the lateral attrition bill at the Senate, said the DOF source, who was present during the hearing.

The DOF source said the legality of some of the provisions of the existing lateral attrition bill was being questioned because they were deemed in violation of civil service laws. One of the provisions being questioned is the pro-

posed creation of a Revenue Performance Evaluation Board (REPB), which will be tasked to set work objectives for employees of the BIR and the BOC and to decide on whether to fire or reward employees on their performance.

The finance official, who requested anonymity, said that the groups opposing this provision of the bill claimed that giving an REPB with such functions might result in an overlapping of authority with the Civil Service Commission, which currently decides on the fate of state workers in terms of job retention.

"The lateral attrition bill also goes against the law granting security of tenure to BIR and BOC employees," said a source.

The DOF said that if the bill was approved, the lateral attrition law would supersede the civil service

law on security of tenure.

The lateral attrition bill, one of the revenue-raising measures proposed by the Arroyo administration, is a reward and punishment system that is expected to encourage BIR and BOC workers to meet or surpass their collection targets.

Some members of the BIR and BOC's employees' union have expressed opposition to the legislative proposal.

To prevent unnecessary delays in the deliberations of the bill and address questions on its legality, the DOF source said, removing the BIR and the BOC from the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission would be an appropriate move.

A new lateral attrition bill containing provisions transforming the two revenue-collecting agencies into GOCCs is expected to revive ear-

PLANS/B2

BIR misses 11-mo. collection target

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue missed its collection target for the first 11 months of the year by about P6 billion, keeping the agency away from meeting its full-year collection target of P477 billion.

Data from the BIR showed that for the 11-month period, revenue collection stood at only P427.02 billion, lower than the collection goal for the period of P432.76 billion.

The year-to-date collection figure means the BIR needs to generate about P50 billion in revenue in December, which is larger than the BIR's usual monthly collection, to achieve its P477 billion target for 2004.

But Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said in a telephone interview that the revenue agency was still expecting to achieve its full year collection goal.

"December is not yet over, and everyone is working double time to meet the goal. We will not surrender until the last day," she said.

The BIR official said the revenue agency was going after taxpayers who were accused of under-declaring their taxable incomes.

Henares said the BIR was expecting to collect from taxpayers, who were already furnished with their tax assessments, this month.

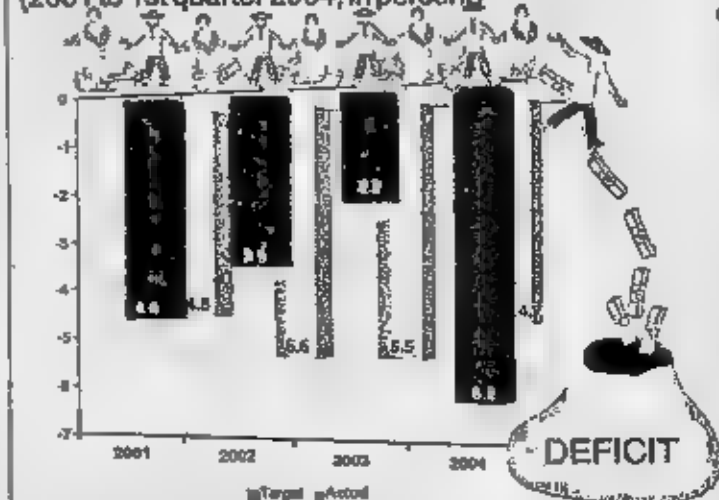
The BIR attributed the failure to meet its 11-month collection goal to loss of several revenue sources, such as the exemption from the documentary stamp tax of the electronic transactions of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and of the trading of stocks in the secondary market.

Henares said the BIR lost about P4 billion in potential revenue

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

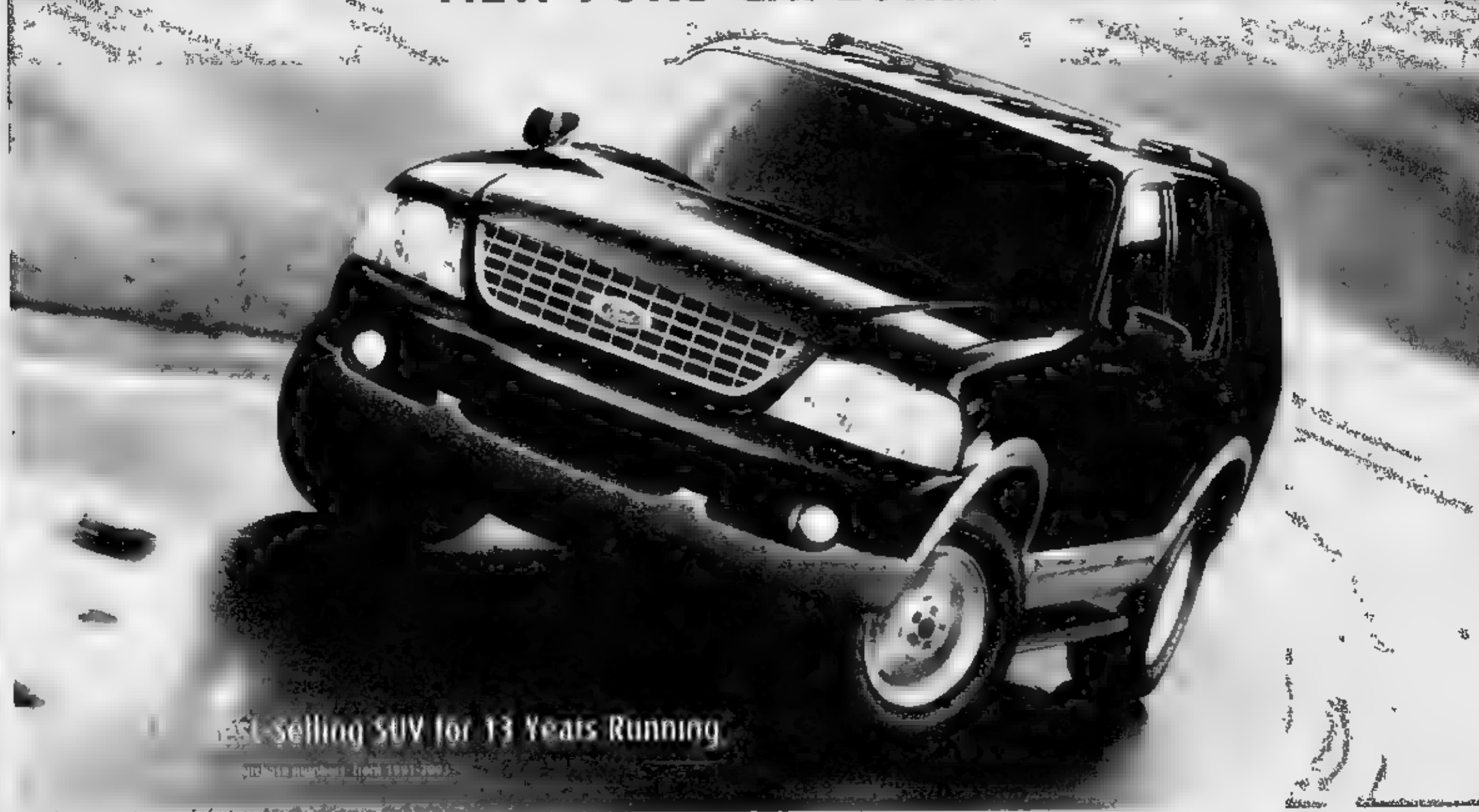
Consolidated public sector deficit* (2001 to 1st quarter 2004, in percent)



*As percentage of gross domestic product.
Source: Medium-Term Development Plan 2004-2010
A KEY macroeconomic problem of the Philippines has been its chronic fiscal deficit with actual performance falling very short of its targets. Consolidated public sector deficit for the whole year is targeted to reach only 0.6 percent of gross domestic product. As of the first quarter, it has reached P51.1 billion which is 4.7 percent of GDP.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

POPULAR, DESIRABLE, AND VERY MUCH AVAILABLE. NEW FORD EXPLORER EDDIE BAUER



Best-selling SUV for 13 Years Running

FOR 13 YEARS RUNNING (1991-2003)

The Ford Explorer has been America's best-selling SUV 13 years running and has inspired more people to keep coming back for more. Because of Ford's expertise and continuous innovation, the Explorer has remained a step ahead of competition in giving people what they want in an SUV. With best-in-class features that offer more security, capability and convenience and the Eddie Bauer badge that assures you of premium styling and design, this SUV has both beauty and brains.

Visit your nearest Ford dealer now!



• METRO MANILA: Ford Alabang, Trunk Line: 843-3681, Fax: 887-4458 • Ford Balaocan, Trunk Line: 927-9648, Fax: 927-9881 • Ford Calabarzon, Trunk Line: 952-9114 / 952-9444, Fax: 952-9440 • Ford EDSA, Trunk Line: 744-2222, Fax: 722-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center, Tel. No. 726-7181 • Ford Iliac, Trunk Line: 637-7044, Fax: 637-6808 • Ford Makati, Trunk Line: 818-3555, Fax: 818-8513 • Ford Marikina, Trunk Line: 562-5555, Fax: 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Ave., Trunk Line: 742-3435, Fax: 742-3540 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line: 717-0888, Fax: 717-1390 • LUNED: Ford Cabanatuan, Trunk Line: (044)463-0606, Fax: (044)608-4700 • Ford Cavite, Trunk Line: (046)472-2040, Fax: (046)472-2048 • Ford Dagupan, Trunk Line: (075)522-2222, Fax: (075)525-5620 • Ford Pangasinana, Trunk Line: (045)563-5707 / (045)567-2888, Fax: (045)563-5700 • Ford San Pablo, Trunk Line: (049)567-8324 • VISAYAS: Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (034)432-2151, Fax: (034)432-1877 • Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (034)432-2151, Fax: (034)432-1877 • Ford Davao, Trunk Line: (082)224-1111, Fax: (082)224-2222

Atlas settles dispute with Toledo

Atlas said the reorganization will improve shareholder value, as well as its fiscal and funding position.

BIR misses . . .

**IMPORTED
WHEELCHAIR**



**COMFORT
WHEELCHAIR**


- Fixed armrests
- Frame coated in dark blue color
- 8"24" solid wheels

Give health this Christmas!

STON HILLS PHARMACY 201 W. 45, Suite 103 SUN 10:00-6:00 MON-FRI 9:00-5:00 CEN 12-2:00	SUN THROUVEN Blosser Cir 7540 SUN 10-5 Blosser Cir 7605	SUN HAZARD 501 Ford, Mt 471 SUN 10:00-5:00 Crisp 10-5 ROBINSON'S CHURCH 3200 Mt Rd 471
--	---	--

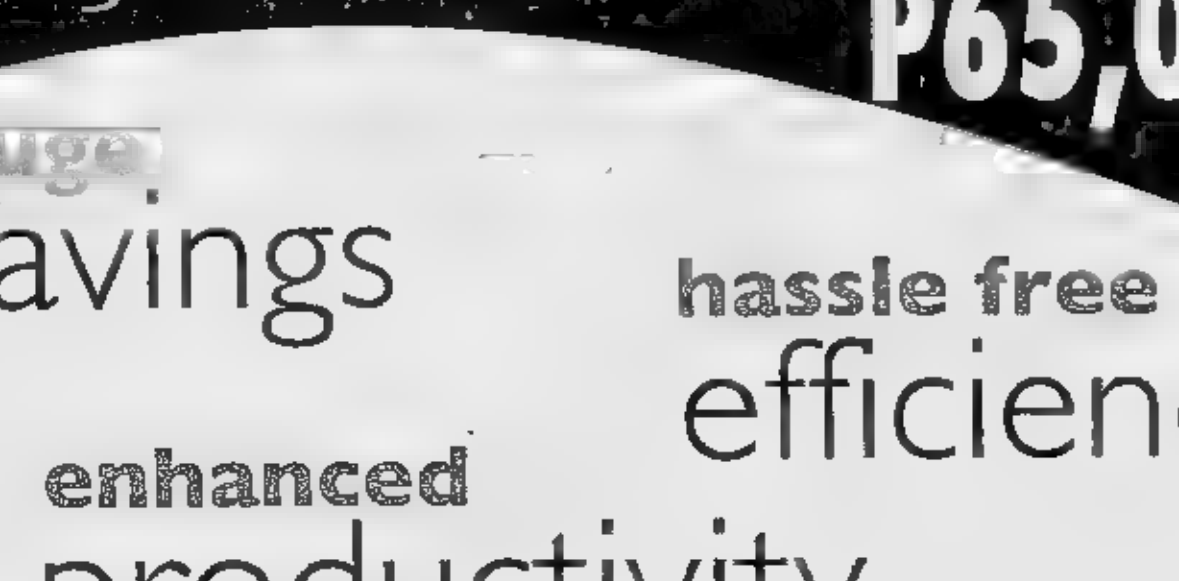
The BIR is hard-pressed to meet its 2004 collection goal to ensure that the government will not exceed its budget deficit ceiling. *Michelle V. Remond*

intimus
PAPER SHREDDERS

 <p>PAPER MONSTER 6 mm Stripcut P3,500</p>	 <p>155 4 mm Stripcut P8,950</p>	 <p>502 MHS 0.8 x 12 mm Crosscut P68,950</p>
 <p>280 4 x 28 mm Crosscut P18,950</p>	 <p>SIMPLEX SE 9 mm & 3.8 mm Stripcut P21,950</p>	<p>OTHER MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE</p>

A VITAL PART OF YOUR SECURITY.

Highly RECOMMENDED by the World Intelligence Examination

[illegible]

imageRUNNER™

now **P65,000** only

huge savings

enhanced productivity

hassle free efficiency

unleash
your business potential

and enjoy these Canon perks

- iR Chrono Watch
- 0% Interest Easy Payment Terms
- Canon Warranty Program

call
812-6047
to avail of the best digital
copier promo deal ever!

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Cor. V.A. Rufino Sts., Makati City
Tels. 812-6047 • Fax. 894-4174
E-mail address: Info@canon.com.ph • Web: www.canon.com.ph

*Branch Offices.

*CMP-Cebu: Door 1P & 20 Free Star Arcade, Herman Cortes St., Subangdaku, Mandaue City Tels. (032) 345-3680; (032) 345-3621 Fax (032) 344-6776 • CMP-Davao: 301 E. Palma Oil St., So. Obrero, Davao City Tel. (082) 277-4820 Fax (082) 222-3392 • CMP-La Union: Ground Floor, M. Perata Bldg., Quezon Ave., Sevilla Norte, San Fernando City, La Union Tels. (072) 242-4567; (072) 242-0440 • CMP-Legaspi: Door 7 & 8 Ground Floor, CEA Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St., Legaspi City Tels. (052) 480-6331; (052) 214-2083 Fax (052) 214-3863 • CMP-Pampanga: Plisahan Bldg., McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga Tel. (045) 961-6496

see figure or contact your Canon representative for more details. pat 011-16-34 serial up 2703 series 01 21

2. THE SCENARIO

(As of December 14, 2004)

	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
	BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES				
	BANKS				
Bank of the Ozarks Bank	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	436,000
Bank of the Ozarks	50.5	50.5	50.5	51	1,791,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	4.06	4.06	4.06	4.06	7,000
First National Bank Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
International Exch. Bank	17	17.5	16.5	16.5	134,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	26	26.5	239,800
Philippine Holdings Bank	22	22	22	22	1,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	15,000
Rural Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	28	28.5	28	28.5	313,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	100
	FINANCIAL SERVICES				
KTR Int'l Eng. Pln. Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	10,000
Bankland Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
Philippine Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Manila Financial Corp.	24.60	24.95	24.60	24.95	230
Phil. Stock Exchanges Inc.	112	112	110	110	300
Sea Life Financial Inc.	1800	1800	1800	1800	50
	COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL				
	COMMUNICATION				
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	51,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.72	11,369,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	900	915	900	915	70,000
People Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	40,000
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	200,000
Palcom Tel. Corp.	2.44	2.48	2.44	2.46	1,076,000
Phil. Long Dist Tel. Co.	1255	1265	1250	1260	200,930
Nitelcom Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	300,000
Philcom Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	3,200,000
	POWER & ENERGY				
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16	16	16	38,700
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25.5	25	25.5	415,400
Palcom Corp.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.15	730,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.05	1.08	1.05	1.06	6,000
	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES				
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	122,000
Manila Shipping Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	60,000
Manila Shipping Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	355,000
	CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS				
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	600,000
Republic Glass Mfg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	50,000
Julian Cement Corp.	1.95	1.98	1.94	1.96	1,065,000
	FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	8,000
Alusara San-Miguel Inc.	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	16,600
Julian Food-cards Corp.	28	29	28.5	28.5	21,350
Pancake House Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.34	42
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	57	57	75
San Miguel Corp. B	75.5	76.5	75	76	287
Vitacorn Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	250,000
	HOLDING FIRMS				
Alamosan Con. Pwr. & Hdy A	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	9,000
Alamosan Con. Pwr. & Hdy B	0.04	0.044	0.04	0.044	1,600
Avila Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	3,000
Abolito-equity ventures	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	148
Am. Nat'l Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	290
A. Sontoro Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	555,000
Alcom Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	115,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	20,000
Babalar Resources & Mgt	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	30
Babalar Resources & Mgt	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	7
Berjaya Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.71	2,450
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,000
BMA Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.8	492,000
Ever-Success Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	400,000
Fininvest Dev. Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	320,000
Global Resources Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.7	2,604,000
Global Resources Corp.	30	30	30	30.5	420,000
Southern Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	240,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.95	3.1	2.95	3.1	53,000
Macarusa Corp.	1.56	2.02	1.56	2.02	5,958,000
Metrowall Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	1,203,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	25,630,770
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	30,000
Randay Holdings Inc.	2.75	3	2.75	3	45,000
Ultrawide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	510,000
Waterland Phils Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	150,000
	MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING				
Proco Resources Inc.	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.0575	1,000,000
	HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES				
Reile Corp.	0.51	0.62	0.51	0.52	1,050,000
Reile Corp.	0.93	0.98	0.93	0.96	1,880,000
Lesana & Resorts Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	400,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.29	540,000
	BONDS, PREMIUMS & WARRANTS				
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	306,200
PLDT (10% Pdr), Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
	PROPERTY				
Avila Land Inc.	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.7	14,760,000
Avila Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	2,150,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	3,330,000
Emrose East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	4,000,000
Emrose East Land Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	9,535,000
Emrose East Land Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	760,000
Emrose East Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	700,000
Emrose East Land Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.08	1,200,000
SMA Development Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	215,000
SMA Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.5	5,784,000
	MINING				
Aper Mining Co. Inc. A	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.34	2,240,000
Aper Mining Co. Inc. B	0.4	0.4	0.34	0.38	470,000
Aper Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min. & Dev't	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	65,000
Dizon Cons. Silver Mines	3	3.3	3	3.3	114,000
Lepanto Cons. Mining Co. A	0.245	0.26	0.24	0.26	9,840,000
Lepanto Cons. Mining Co. B	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.35	9,350,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	319,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	249,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	76,080,000
Philax Mining Corp. A	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	6,700,000
Philax Mining Corp. B	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	500,000
United Phlegon Mining Co.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	680,000
	OIL				
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,800,000
Imperial Res.	0.0036	0.0035	0.0035	0.0036	35,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	10,000,000

DISCLOSURES

FIRST Metro Investment Corp., appointed Christina Bautista senior vice president and deputy supervising head for domestic subsidiaries, effective Nov. 2.

HIGHLANDS Prime Inc. has moved to the SM Corporate offices. Starting Jan. 1, 2005, its new address will be: SM Corporate Offices, Building A, 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City. The new contact number is 831-1000 local 1522/1523, while the new fax number is 551-6781.

LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.50 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Dec. 24 and will be payable on Dec. 28.

ELECTED members to Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.'s various committees were: Jose de Guzman, Noel del Castillo and Alfredo Rosal, audit committee; Felipe Relucio Jr., del Castillo and Martin Buckingham, remuneration committee; Alfredo Ramos, Frank Lubbock and Reginald Hare, nomination committee. Also, the company entered into a compromise agreement to settle its P100 million worth of liabilities with the local government of Toledo City, Cebu. *Compiled by G.J. Yap, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

December 14, 2004			
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.751033	1.000000
Japan	Yen	0.007127	0.009550
United Kingdom	Pound	1.446113	1.925500
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.986593	0.128614
Switzerland	Franc	0.651316	0.867227
Canada	Dollar	0.611939	0.814797
Singapore	Dollar	0.456139	0.607349
Australia	Dollar	0.589223	0.757820
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.992.82	2.652590
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.200372	0.266795
Brunei	Dollar	0.454758	0.340975
	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000108
Thailand	Baht	0.019086	0.025413
UAE	Dirham	0.204490	0.272279
	Euro	1.000000	1.331500
Argentina	Peso	0.252448	0.336134
Brazil	Real	0.271425	0.351402
Denmark	Kroner	0.134806	0.179231
	Ruppee	0.017011	0.022650
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.197667	0.263193
	New Peso	0.068702	0.088814
	Dollar	0.532345	0.708818
South Africa	Rand	0.130934	0.174336
	Won	0.000710	0.000945
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023274	0.030989

Plans up . . .

The National Revenue Authority (Nara) bill, which was filed in Congress but was later shelved, sought to "corporateize" the BIR for the purpose of improving its collection efficiency and curb corruption. The Nara bill, which was also opposed by some BIR employees likewise called for the setting of performance targets for internal revenue workers.

The lateral attrition bill, being pushed by the Arroyo administration is expected to generate P10 billion in additional revenue a year.

Ayalas win over Madrigals

THE AYALAS will have finally closed the soured '80s-era Ayala Alabang deal that they had signed with the Vasquez wing of the fellow landed Madrigal family.

The Supreme Court's Second Division has dismissed the petition filed by Dr. Daniel Vasquez and Maria Luisa Madrigal-Vasquez seeking to compel Ayala Corp. to sell them back four Alabang lots at 1984 prices, instead of the 1990 prices that Ayala had proposed.

The lots were part of the 49.9-hectare Madrigal property that the family sold to Ayala in the early 1980s to develop what is now Ayala Alabang.

The high court ruled, among other things, that the Vasquezes failed to make a real demand, as provided in their memorandum of agreement, for Ayala to sell back the lots in 1984, but waited until 1990 when Ayala had finished development of the so-called Phase 3 of the exclusive subdivision.

Besides, what the Vasquezes signed with Ayala was a right of first refusal, not an option contract, "there being no separate consideration thereof," ponente Justice Dante Tinga said.

Ayalas all aglow

THE ZOBEL brothers Jaime Augusto and Fernando have millions of reasons to enjoy the nightly fireworks and Yuletide festivities in the dazzling Ayala Center.

The heirs have widened their pre-holiday stock options disposal not only in Ayala Land but also in the family-controlled holding company, Ayala Corp.

Jaime Augusto on Nov. 26 sold two million AC shares at P6.30 a share out of his 5,799,920 personal shareholdings. The exercise should have stuffed P12.6 million in the Christmas stocking of the Ayala Corp. president and chief executive officer.

A week later, his younger brother Fernando followed suit, disposing of 250,000 AC shares at P6.40 each, before monetizing last week an additional 1.49 million more between P6.40 and P6.60 a share.

After the cash-out, Fernando reported he still had over 1.72 million in AC shares left in his own name.

Since Halloween, Fernando has disposed of 1.986 million Ayala Land shares at the P7.10-P7.30/share range, while Jaime Augusto sold a more restrained 176,611 shares.

In all, Fernando would have

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin



raised over P25.5 million from the combined AC and ALI sales, while Jaime Augusto would have grossed a more modest P13.85 million.

The Zobels' selling spree prompted other Ayala executives to follow their bosses.

ALI senior vice president Angela Lacson sold exactly 342,694 ALI shares she just obtained from the employee stock option plan, while vice president Maria Victoria Añonuevo disposed a total of 206,353 shares, the entire lot.

Corporate secretary Mercedes Nollado even preceded her principals in the selling spree, executing 14 sales transactions since October to dispose of a total of 1,654,580 ALI shares.

Strangely, the male ALI executives seem to be of a more parsimonious bent.

Chief financial officer Jaime Ysmael has kept the over 165,000 shares he had obtained from the same ESOP batch. And so did SVP Manuel Coleyo Jr. with his 323,140 shares.

Vice president Raul Irianda sold only 12,664 out of the 193,628 shares he had availed himself of.

Even the two just retired presidents, Francisco Licuanan III of ALI and Xavier Loinaz of Bank of the Philippine Islands, have so far kept the latest tranche of Ayala Corp. shares—184,896 for Licuanan and 951,901 for Loinaz—they had obtained before their employment ended.

Heard through the grapevine

THE BAGUIO Country Club has been ordered to pay P10 million in damages to a corporate member, Multinational Investment Bancorporation, after Baguio Regional Trial Court Judge Clifton Ganay ruled as harassment the damage suit the BCC board had filed against the investment bank.

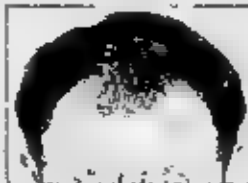
Incidentally, Ganay, winner of this year's Gender Justice award, only last month awarded P7 million damages to the club against a suing female member.

(Please take note of our new email address: cocktails_pdi@pdiidsl.net or cocktails_pdi@yahoo.com)

Are You Losing Too Much Hair?

Don't waste time! Check for these signs:

- ☐ Is your hairline receding at the temples?
- ☐ Is your hair thinning out in the crown area?
- ☐ Do you experience excessive falling hair after you shampoo?
- ☐ Are you afflicted with dandruff build-up?
- ☐ Do you have greasy hair with an oily scalp?
- ☐ Do you scratch your head too often due to constant itchiness?



If you have any of these symptoms, you're already a victim of heavy hair loss. But it's not too late. You can still end it at **Svenson International**. We are the leading and reliable experts in solving hair loss and scalp problems. Through careful diagnosis and highly effective treatments, we will eliminate the main cause of hair loss and provide the correct environment for optimum growth.

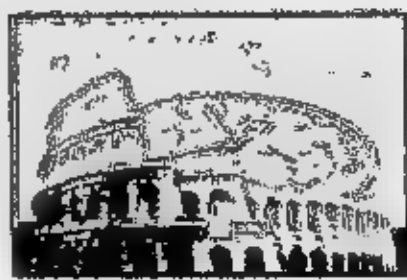
Make Svenson your only choice for stopping hair loss. Call us today!

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 10/F GT Tower QUEZON CITY 4/F Center Mall Bldg. BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg. ALABANG 4/F Chateau-Franchise Bldg. CEBU TEL: 234-8884 7/F Kessel Centre

Reflecting on Time Colosseum



Designed by Zhenyuan of Holdings, Made in China



All Dial Chronometer

Mido

SWISS WATCHES SINCE 1918

Available at: MONTRE 1401 THE PODIUM, Doha, Jula Vargas cor. ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (632) 887-3777, www.mido.com.ph

Also Available at: MacArthur, Doha, Jula Vargas cor. ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (632) 887-3777, www.mido.com.ph



U\$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT

Earn as high as 3.5%

	\$1,000 to 9,999	\$10,000 to 49,999	\$50,000 to 99,999	\$100,000 to 1.0 million
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%	3.000%
2 months	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%	3.250%
3 months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%
6 months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%
12 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%	3.500%

Quoted rates are for individual accounts only and are subject to change without prior notice. Rates are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.

Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.

Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

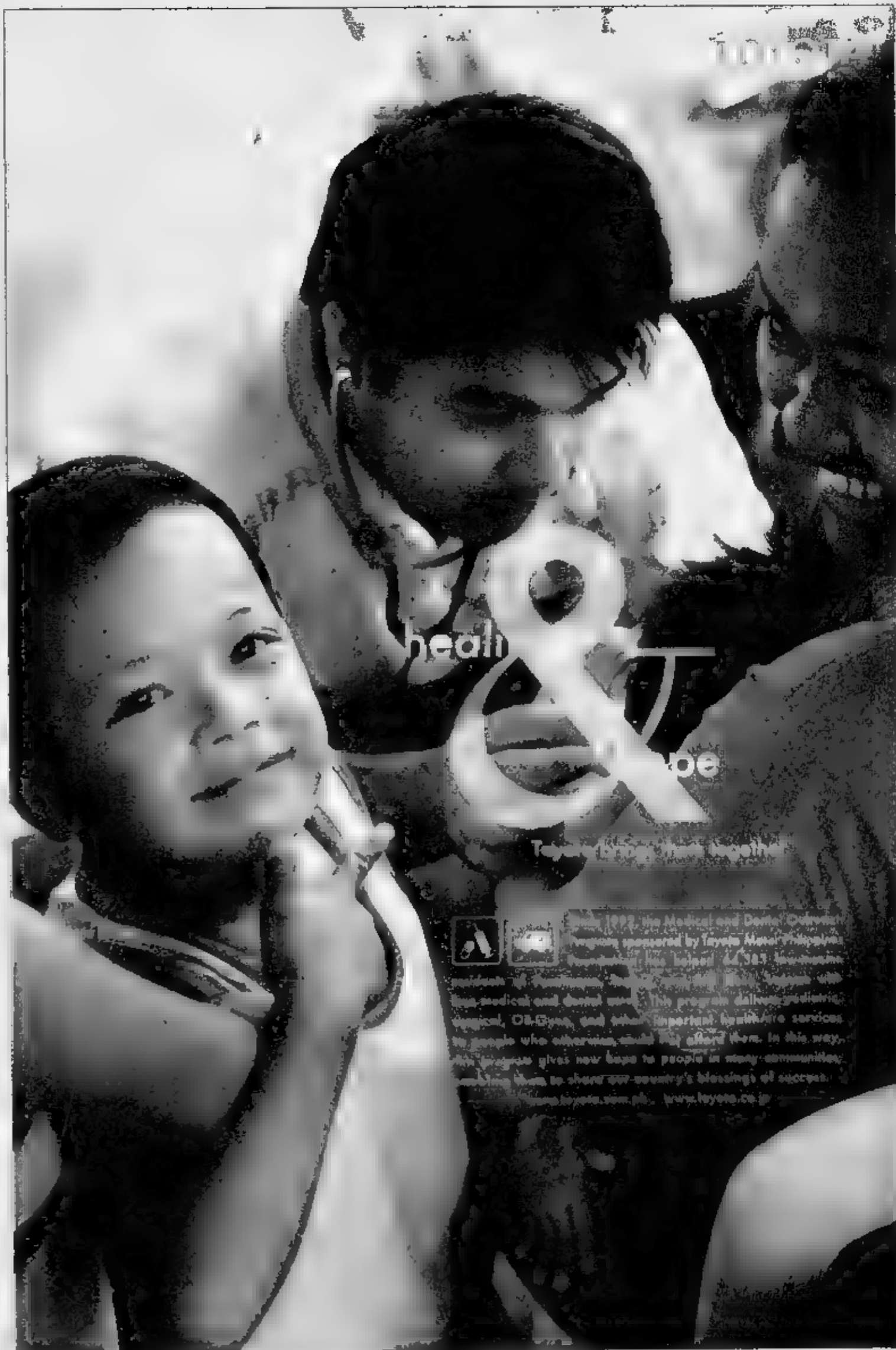
SAN LORENZO HOMES



CHRISTMAS BONANZA PROMO

Available as much as P20,000 discount

CALL : 637-0418 / 635-8781



Oil firms hold off gasoline, diesel price rollbacks

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL firms may have rolled back prices of their liquefied

petroleum gas (LPG), but they are not expected to do the same for gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

According to Pilipinas Shell

Petroleum Corp. country chair Edgardo Chua, it was difficult to speculate on further price rollbacks at this time as there were so

many factors to consider, including the recent decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to cut production

by one million barrels a day starting Jan. 1, 2005 and government's move to slap additional taxes on the oil industry.

Global demand should also be considered, he said, as the winter season usually drives up prices.

"If it's a very cold winter and demand is high, particularly in China, then prices will be affected. But it's really difficult to speculate. Prices are very much uncertain at this time," he told the INQUIRER.

He added that the "fear factor," referring to fears of supply disruptions due to threats of terrorism on Iraq and other Middle Eastern oil producers, still weigh heavily on prices of crude and finished petroleum products.

Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association chair Fernando Martinez said in a separate interview that it was close to impossible for oil firms to roll back fuel prices as they still had some under-recoveries that never had the chance to be reflected on pump prices.

The Department of Energy, on the other hand, said fuel price rollbacks could already be implemented at this time as world crude and refined petroleum product prices had started to decline.

The benchmark Dubai crude went down to a Dec. 1-12 average of \$33.55 a barrel from last month's \$34.87 a barrel.

Unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products had likewise gone down to a December average of \$45.82 a barrel from \$52.44 a barrel last month.

The price of MOPS-based diesel likewise declined to \$50.92 a barrel in the first 14 days of December from a high \$56.02 a barrel in November.

The contract price of LPG also followed the downtrend, going down to \$424 per metric ton (MT) this month from \$470 per MT last month.

"We can't commit yet. We can't give false expectations to consumers," Shell's Chua said.

Lose the weight, lose the wires.

Powered by Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology, the NEO Q-Note wireless notebook is the PC that's light enough to take anywhere.

And since it's wireless, you can connect from thousands of hotspots.

This holiday season, treat yourself to a NEO Q-Note powered by Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology. Get special savings at 0% interest for 12 months from Nov. 15, 2004 to Jan. 15, 2005. Give yourself the perfect gift. Get a Neo Q-Note today!

Q-NOTE M360C/M360D

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.80 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 4MB cache, 4MB cache)
- Intel® 6550M Chipset
- Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 30
- Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CD/RW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0, 1 x 1394 FireWire port
- Built-in Webcam
- Weights approx 2.75kg
- Optional 2nd 12 cell battery
- Free Carry Case

P5,416.58
Per month x 12 mos
SRP 64,999.00

Q-NOTE T210 TABLET PC

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.80 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 4MB cache, 4MB cache)
- Intel® 6550M Chipset
- Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 30
- Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CD/RW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0
- 4-in-1 Memory Card Reader
- Built-in Webcam
- Weights approx 2.5kg
- Free Carry Case

P6,249.92
Per month x 12 mos
SRP 74,999.00

Q-NOTE T210C/WIRELESS

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.80 GHz processor, 2MB L2 cache, 4MB cache, 4MB cache)
- Intel® 6550M Chipset
- Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG LAN 30
- Mini PCI Adapter
- 256MB DDR Memory
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive
- 14" TFT XGA Display (1024x768)
- Combo DVD + CD/RW Drive
- 56K Modem, 10/100 LAN
- 2x USB 2.0
- 4-in-1 Memory Card Reader
- Built-in Webcam
- Weights approx 2.5kg
- Free Carry Case

P6,333.25
Per month x 12 mos
SRP 75,999.00

FREE!
Canon IP1000 Bubble Jet Printer &
Canon LS-12PC USB-Calculator

PERMIT NO. 5629 SERIES OF 2004



See flyers for more details

NEO
Q-NOTE SERIES
www.neo.com.ph

Accepted Major Credit Cards for 0% installment: **SANITARY, BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, CHINA CREDIT INTERNATIONAL, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK**
FOR COMPLETE PRODUCT INFORMATION, please call PC-MANNA 832-728471 / 7280797, email info@neo.com.ph
Visit our store/branches, Digital Playground: 41 Cebuana Bldg 5th Floor, Cebu City, Cebu; 41 Cebuana Bldg 5th Floor, Cebu City, Cebu; 41 Cebuana Bldg 5th Floor, Cebu City, Cebu

Cable TV players switch to set-up boxes

By Clarissa S. Batino

ABOUT 80 percent of cable television players are expected to raise funds so they can shift to set-up boxes in the next five years to address growing concerns on theft and piracy, the president of the Philippine Cable Television Association said.

PTCA president Tony Selida said that cable players would have to borrow money or invite additional investments to purchase set-up boxes as well as encryptors.

The set-up boxes are expected to curb theft within its network.

Brand-new set-up boxes costs between \$60 to \$100 each, while the second-hand between \$20 and \$30, according to the PTCA chief. Encryptors, on the other hand, be-

tween \$1,500 and \$2,000 each.

Cable TV firms would have to buy one encryptor for every cable channel to prevent piracy.

Unlike cable that can be easily connected and linked to illegal customers, a set-up box would receive only the signals ordered by the customer.

The use of set-up boxes would also allow cable players to offer a more efficient packages for the subscribers.

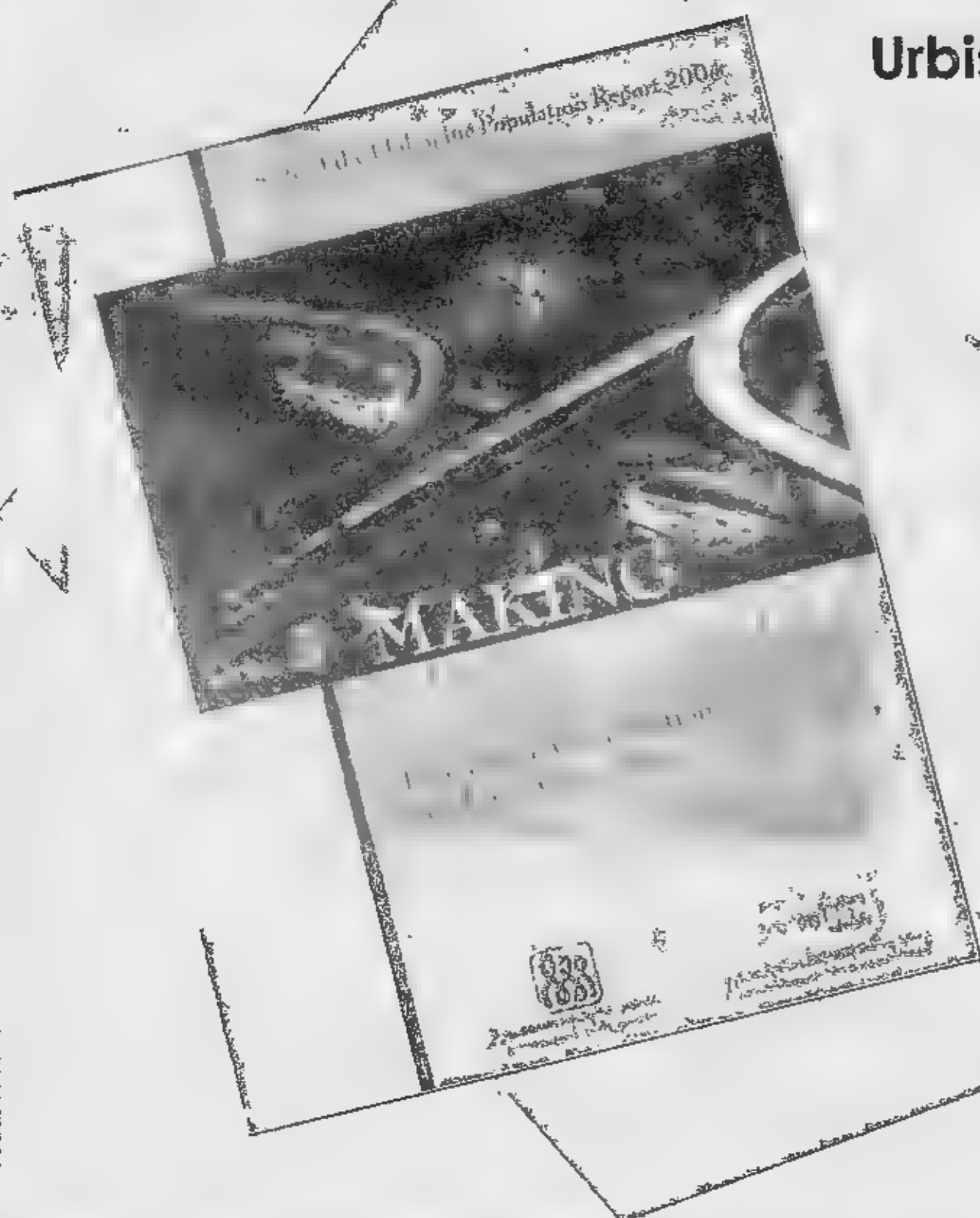
"A cable player could charge a basic rate then charge an additional fee for every additional channel. So you pay only for what you want to watch," Selida explained.

There are about a million cable subscribers in the country and another one million that are illegally connected.

Launch of the State of the Philippine Population Report 2004

Urbis 5: Making Cities Work Population, Urbanization, and Local Governance

December 15, 2004
Hyatt Hotel, Manila



Commission on Population



United Nations Population Fund

Planholders threaten CAP over tuition payments

SEC may give in to pre-need firm's proposal to draw P110 million from Veterans Bank

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A GROUP of College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) planholders are threatening to continue to stake out the Makati office of the pre-need firm to press their demand for the payment of tuition fees.

After a hearing at the Lower House yesterday, Samuel Ramos, spokesperson for the group called CAP-US (Uncle Sam), said the group would continue to go to CAP to make sure the pre-need firm would make good its promise to pay planholders.

Ramos said he and about 300 other planholders decided to form the group three days ago to protest CAP's issuance of checks that reportedly bounced.

Some of the planholders have also expressed their disappointment over the dismal manner by which the checks have been issued.

"Our children were supposed to take their preliminary exams this semester," Ramos told the House Committee on Banks and Intermediaries chaired by Manila Rep. Jaime Lopez. "What will happen to our children? We will not allow our children to stop schooling just because of (the) mismanagement of CAP."

Ramos yesterday also told the committee that about 200 planholders were at the CAP building waiting to be paid.

"The tension is great (at the CAP building) every bloody day," he told the panel. "At the end of the day we don't have the money. Many are coming from the provinces. Can you imagine how many trips they have to make to CAP?"

But Bobby Cafe, CAP first vice-president, yesterday assured planholders during the hearing that CAP would not run away from its obligation to pay tuition fees.

CAP yesterday was supposed to pay plan-

holders some P8.3 million in tuition.

Instead, CAP would meet with planholders this morning to work out how to settle the payments.

Securities and Exchange Commission chair Fe Barin said the SEC would consider CAP's proposal to draw P110 million in funds in the pre-need firm's trustee bank, Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB).

But she said that the proposal would have to pass through the Commission en banc, the policy-setting body of the SEC.

At press time, the Commission was still locked in a special meeting to discuss its move over CAP's proposal.

Barin said it is likely that if the funds were released, it would be in five tranches to make sure the amount would go directly to planholders.

CAP this semester owes various schools about P160 million.

Constitutional amendments urgent—Neda

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority (Neda) has reiterated its call for amendments in the Constitution, saying that making the charter adapt to present economic needs was vital to achieving the country's medium-term growth targets.

The Neda said that after government implements the Arroyo administration's proposed revenue-raising measures intended to solve its fiscal problem, moving on to amend the Constitution will be a complementary move to attain a vibrant economy.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri cited four constitutional reforms needed to meet the goals stated under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP).

These are the shift to a federal form of government, shift to a unicameral parliamentary system, loosening of restrictive provisions on national economy and patrimony and changes in the political party system.

"The key to success of the plan is wider participation of local government units. These constitutional reforms will help us develop stronger local governance, among other objectives," said Neri in an interview after his speech on the MTPDP during yesterday's assembly of the League of Cities of the Philippines.

Neri, who is also the country's economic planning secretary, said the suggested charter amendments are also aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and accountability of political parties, and encourage the entry of more investments.

The attainment of these objectives, he said, would help pave the way for the realization of the goals of the MTPDP including a 7-8-percent gross domestic product growth (GDP), an investment to GDP ratio of about 28 percent, and a zero budget deficit by the national government all by 2010, and export earnings of more than \$50 billion by 2006.

BOI, DOF urged to break fiscal policy impasse

CONGRESS is urging the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Department of Finance (DOF) to consolidate into one bill their respective proposals on fiscal incentives—a move that could fast-track the passage of the measure to reduce the perks.

The BOI has presented a proposal totally different from the DOF: the BOI wants to rationalize the fiscal incentives granted to BOI-registered business, while the DOF seeks to cancel several incentives granted under special laws.

According to a government source, Congress wants the BOI and DOF bills to be consolidated since they focus on the rationalization of the granting of fiscal incentives to businesses.

The DOF and the BOI have been at loggerheads over the issue. Responsible for easing the government's fiscal problem, the DOF is pushing for a reduction of incentives. On the other hand, the BOI, which is tasked to attract investments, said incentives should be rationalized but must not be substantially reduced because they are necessary to boost business activities.


The DOF earlier expressed fears that the BOI bill, instead of reducing the amount of foregone revenue from the granting of fiscal incentives, would actually boost the government's revenue losses from tax and duty perks.

For its part, the BOI is insisting that incentives should not be considered as forgone revenues because, if not for the investments they helped generate, there will be no businesses to tax, officials said.

Representative Junie Cua made the proposal to consolidate the BOI and DOF bills. According to the government source, Cua believes that the BOI's bill has to be combined with that of the DOF's to fulfill its purpose of reducing tax perks.

"If (the bills) are not combined, then ... we could not expect to generate additional revenue, but instead give away more incentives," the source said.

Michelle V. Remo



Model Ref. 158

THE TUDOR MONARCH

- Constructed of stainless steel.
- Screwdown winding crown.
- Waterproof-tested to 50 meters.
- Scratch-proof synthetic sapphire crystal.
- Bezel available with diamonds.
- A variety of dials to choose from.

For service, please contact the Tudor Service Centre
Corinthian Plaza, G/F, 21 Paseo de Roxa, Makati City Tel: 811-5320

PURCHASE TUDOR TIMEPIECES AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL TUDOR RETAILERS:

GREENHILLS WATCH CENTER 10th Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center 10th Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center	CRISTAL CARAT 10th Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center	LUCERNE JEWELLER 10th Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center	WASHINGTON JEWELRY EMPORIUM 10th Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center
HOOR GLASS CENTER 10th Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center	MULTI-TIME EMPORIUM 10th Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center	WASHINGTON WATCHES & JEWELRY 10th Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center	

JBIC takes a step back from Subic-Clark project commitment

Rommel W. Domingo

THE JAPAN Bank for International Cooperation has taken a step back from its commitment to pay for the construction of the Subic-Clark Tarlac highway, and refused to green-light the project.

JBIC officials said that they first needed an assurance that they would not pay for some P2.3 billion in taxes and duties

arising from the highway construction.

The project's proponent, Bases Conversion Development Authority, is awaiting JBIC's concurrence for its choice of contractors after a long-drawn bidding process that ended last October.

JBIC is providing 85 percent of the project's funding through a 41.9-billion-yen loan package. The package would cover civil works and procurement of

equipment, consulting services and contingencies.

The rest would come from the government as a counterpart fund.

Antonio Rex Chan, BCDA vice president for operations, said in a press briefing that the project would incur P700 million in value-added taxes and duties on imported capital equipment and consultancy work in the first year alone.

The P21-billion project is expected to take three years to complete.

Chan said the BCDA was trying to secure from the Bureau of Internal Revenue a deferred payment scheme for the taxes and duties.

"If we cannot (secure that), the BCDA may have to shoulder the taxes and duties, which it is willing to do," Chan said.

The 94.5-kilometer highway has two

portions: the 50.5-km first leg which costs P12.7 billion; and the 44-km second leg would cost P8.2 billion.

Both would consist of four-lane asphalt concrete pavement with asphalt overlay.

The project includes a total of four major bridges spanning the rivers of Guimain, Porac, Pasig-Potrero and Sacobia-Bamban, aside from eight interchanges, 35 minor bridges and 13 overpasses.

IMPORTANT ADVISORY FOR WEST ZONE CUSTOMERS

Due to the high turbidity (or sediment) level of the raw water coming from Angat Dam caused by the recent typhoons, Maynilad Water has to reduce the volume of water that our La Mesa Treatment Plant No. 1 processes and distributes to our water network since December 11, 2004.

As a result, our daily water production output of 2250 million liters a day (MLD) is reduced by 25 %, to 1900 MLD. This has left elevated portions of Quezon City, Valenzuela, Malabon, Navotas, Caloocan, Manila and Pasay without water or with low water pressure. The reduction is resorted to in order to allow our treatment plant to cope with the high turbidity.

In some areas, this high turbidity level may result in a brownish discoloration of the water. Despite this, we assure our customers the treated water coming out from our La Mesa Treatment Plant is safe, does not have bacteriological contents, and conforms to the national standards for drinking water. To avoid the entry of dirty water into our pipelines, especially where there are illegal connections, we urge our customers not to use booster pumps.

To cope with the reduced supply, Maynilad has fielded 50 mobile tankers to deliver water to affected areas. Affected residents may call the Maynilad Hotline 1626 for water deliveries.

We apologize to our customers for this unforeseen event which is totally beyond our control.

In the meantime, we are doing everything to be able to restore water supply to normal levels as soon as possible.



MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.

Tinid - Buho ang Serbisyo sa Pilipino!

For inquiries, please call our 24-Hour Hotline

1626

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that pursuant to the Order dated 25 November 2004 issued by Hon. Meliton G. Ermasan, Presiding Judge of Regional Trial Court of Urdaneta City Branch 48 in Intra-Corporate Case No SCC-2847 entitled "Cezar T. Quiambao, et al. vs. Strategic Alliance Development Corp. et al.," a Special Annual Stockholders' Meeting of Strategic Alliance Development Corporation was held on 10 December 2004 at the STRADEC Office, Poblacion Sur, Bayambang, Pangasinan, during which the following Stockholders were elected as Members of the Board of Directors for the term 2004-2005, to hold office as such until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, to wit:

Cezar T. Quiambao
Anthony K. Quiambao
Simplicio T. Quiambao Jr.

Municipality of Bayambang, Pangasinan; 10 December 2004.

Attested by:

(Sgd) JEFFREY P. PUNZALAN
Secretary of the Meeting

(Sgd) CEZAR T. QUIAMBAO
Presiding Officer of the Meeting

(Sgd) ATTY RUSTY M. NAYA
Branch Clerk of Court
RTC Urdaneta City Branch 48



Strategic Alliance Development Corporation

Quezon Blvd., Poblacion Sur, Bayambang, Pangasinan
Telephone: (075) 592-3285 • (075) 592-2287

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that:

- On 10 December 2004, pursuant to the Order dated 25 November 2004 issued by Hon. Meliton G. Ermasan, Presiding Judge of Regional Trial Court of Urdaneta City Branch 48 in Intra-Corporate Case No SCC-2847 entitled "Cezar T. Quiambao, et al. vs. Strategic Alliance Development Corp. et al.," a Special Annual Stockholders' Meeting of Strategic Alliance Development Corporation was held on 10 December 2004 at the STRADEC Office, Poblacion Sur, Bayambang, Pangasinan, during which the following Stockholders were elected as Members of the Board of Directors for the term 2004-2005, to hold office as such until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, to wit:

Cezar T. Quiambao
Anthony K. Quiambao
Simplicio T. Quiambao Jr.

- Immediately after the adjournment of the Special Annual Stockholders' Meeting, the newly elected Members of the Board of Directors held their Organizational Meeting, during which, among others, the following Corporate Officers were elected for the term 2004-2005, to hold office as such until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, to wit:

Cezar T. Quiambao - Chairman and President
Anthony K. Quiambao - Treasurer
Eric C. Pilapil - Corporate Secretary
Albert M. Rasalan - Assistant Corporate Secretary

Municipality of Bayambang, Pangasinan; 10 December 2004.

(Sgd) ALBERT M. RASALAN
Assistant Corporate Secretary

NATA DE COCO WIZ Making it big in Japan

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FESTIVE Foods International Inc. was there when the nata de coco craze was at its zenith in the late 1990s, and it is leading efforts to take the industry back there again.

Behind the moves is businessman Philip C. Young, who grew up surrounded by food, and learned the ropes at the feet of his parents who used to operate the biggest manufacturing facility for banana chips, which were sold here and overseas.

Young said in an interview that while he and his family were happy with the sales of banana chips, they quickly figured out in the mid-1980s that they needed to come up with new products, since sales of banana chips had their peaks and valleys.

They particularly needed a product to fill in the summer months, and the answer came in the form of halo-halo ingredients. This led to the phenomenal growth of the line of halo-halo ingredients and desserts sold under the Jona's brand.

From tropical fruit preserves to ethnic food products, such as kaong and red beans, Jona's became the byword for Filipino desserts in a bottle. These products have filled the tables of homes, not just in the Philippines, but also in 20 other countries.

The Young family's passion for excellence, spanning over 50 years in the food business, may be tasted in every spoonful of Filipino products, thus, winning for Jona's the Department of Trade and Industry's Golden Shell Award in 1989.

Acid test

Among the most popular of the halo-halo ingredients was nata de coco, and ever the innovator, Young thought of bringing that unique Filipino ingredient in the giant export market of Japan.

Penetrating the Japanese export market became the acid test of Young's patience and perseverance as Japan's rules are among the most stringent in the world.

"They really liked the texture of our nata de coco, because it reminded them of the texture of the baby octopus," Young said. "But they found it very sweet, so we had to make some changes before we passed their tests."

Getting just the right taste and texture for the nata de coco took all of eight years, but Young eventually made it.

By 1993, Jona's nata de coco made it big in Japan, making it the first Filipino company to pass Japan's strict quality standards.

Preferred refreshment

Jona's eventually led in nata de coco product innovation, from the regular 15 mm cut, to small cuts of 10 mm, 7.5 mm, miniature 5 mm and strings.

It was Jona's that made the Japanese accept the soft, chewy gel as a health food, until it became a regular fare in everyday meals.

After making a success of the nata de coco, Jona's followed it up with other Filipino ingredients. Halo-halo then became the preferred refreshment by even non-Filipinos in Japan.



IN THE 1990s, Jona's tasty, chewy gel took Japan by storm.

"There was a big craze for nata de coco because the Japanese liked the taste and its health benefits because it is from coconut," he said. "From a zero export market, we hit about \$25 million in the mid-1990s."

Nata de coco, however, became the victim of its own success.

Couldn't get enough

Since the Japanese couldn't get enough of nata de coco, all sorts of exporters jumped on the export bandwagon and flooded the market with the product, even those of inferior quality.

In just two years, the Philippines' reputation in the nata de coco market was tarnished, and markets dried up as quickly as they surfaced, leaving many Filipino backyard entrepreneurs with vats full of unsold nata de coco.

Jona's sales were affected, but it still managed to export to Japan. After years in the doldrums, the nata de coco market is showing signs of resurgence, primarily due to the health craze sweeping Japan and the rest of the industrialized countries.

"It took about two years for the market to recover and we took that time to continue improving our products," Young said. "We listened to our customers and we took their suggestions to heart. That was why we continued to sell nata de coco."

Stiff competition

But according to Young, the Philippines now faces stiff competition from other countries that filled the market when the Philippines had to take a step back. These include Thailand and Indonesia.

Young has since assumed an active

role in getting the industry players together to take advantage of the reopening of the Japanese market to nata de coco.

Young heads the Philippine Nata de Coco Industries and was responsible for reactivating the Nata de Coco Technical Working Group, which has worked with agencies like the Department of Science and Technology.

The Nata de Coco TWG aims to study the mistakes of the past and restore the Philippines' position as the leading exporter of the best quality nata de coco in the world market.

Only the best

Young said there are moves, for instance, to come up with standards and an accreditation process to ensure that only good raw materials go into the finished product, and only the best nata de coco makes it in the world market.

"In order to improve the industry, we have to improve the raw material source," Young said.

Continuous improvement and striking while opportunities are hot underline the success of Festive Foods and its line of food products.

Aside from Jona's, Festive Foods also distributes the Fiesta brand of sweet fruit preserves and the Orient's Delights line of fruits, vegetables and noodles.

With the consolidation of the former Jona's International Philippines, Cathay Pacific Multi-Commodities Corp. and Philexson International Inc. under a new and reinvigorated management team, Festive Foods looks forward to more happy times ahead.



Jona's Foods bread-and-butter line—coco products in all shapes, textures and sizes.

Spang Hwy. (02) 533-8244; 533-4024; 533-4422; 534-7500; 536-9381; 535-9304; 531-8254; 534-7599 • Pasig (02) 842-8704 • Calute (02) 856-9008 • Morang (02) 881-5533 • Tanby (02) 854-0153 • Bacoor, Cavite (046) 417-3541 • San Pablo (049) 562-7736 • Tayug, Pangasinan (075) 572-2031 • San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 951-6014 • Ozambs (089) 521 2523

UNITED NATIONS FORECAST

Asia's economies to beat average growth in '05

BANGKOK, Thailand—Developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region will grow faster than the global average next year, but face challenges from volatile oil prices, an end to WTO textile quotas and slowing growth in major export markets, the United Nations says.

China is expected to have the region's highest gross domestic product growth rate at 8.8 percent, followed by India with 6.8 percent, Kim Hak-su, director of

the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, told a news conference Monday.

The average growth rate for developing Asian economies is projected to slow from 6.9 percent to 6.2 percent, but the region "will continue to have the highest growth rates in the world," Kim said as he presented a report on the region's economies.

Worldwide, economic growth is expected to average 3.4 per-

cent in 2005, he said.

The UN agency expects volatile oil prices to continue to have a negative impact on regional economies, Kim said, adding that the agency forecasts average benchmark crude futures at US\$38 (28.6 euros) a barrel in 2005.

Crude futures rose to US\$55 (41.4 euros) a barrel in October—more than twice what they cost 18 months ago—and are currently around US\$40 (30.1 eu-

ros) a barrel.

Oil prices will fluctuate in 2005 because of the war in Iraq, erratic supplies, and rising demand for energy in growing economies such as India and China, said Raj Kumar, poverty and development chief at the agency.

Kim added that domestic oil subsidies are unsustainable in some countries, citing Indonesia where subsidies in 2004 will likely amount to "nearly a quarter of

total government revenues."

An expected economic slowdown in Japan, China and the United States—the main export markets for developing nations in the region—would likely have repercussions across the Asia-Pacific region, Kim said.

China's overheated economic growth should ease in 2005, while the weaker dollar and Tokyo's huge public debt are set to put the brakes on Japan's growth, he said.

The United States has huge current account and fiscal deficits.

An end to textile quotas under World Trade Organization rules on Jan. 1 will also likely slow growth, Kim said.

The quotas gave favorable import tariffs to countries such as Bangladesh, where textiles account for 75 percent of total exports, and Sri Lanka, where they account for close to 50 percent, he said. AP

US shoppers defy gloom; retail sales up

WASHINGTON—Consumers, the backbone of the US economy, defied grim holiday forecasts and pushed retail sales higher in November, government figures showed Monday.

Despite a slump in motor vehicle sector, overall retail sales rose a seasonally adjusted 0.1 percent from the previous month, a better than expected start to the fastest sales period of the year.

Wall Street analysts had widely predicted no change.

Stripping out motor vehicle sales, which slumped 1.3 percent, retail sales advanced by a solid 0.5 percent, gaining on a broad front, the Commerce Department report showed.

"The trend shows that it is going to be a very solid holiday season," said Wachovia economist Gina Martin.

The November performance, if anything, was underestimating the underlying strength of the consumer, she said.

Wachovia estimated that holiday sales in November and December, excluding food, motor vehicles and gasoline, would rise more than 7 percent over the same period last year.

Consumer spending is scrutinized by the financial markets because it accounts for two-thirds of US economic activity.

The retail sales report is sure to be welcomed by policymakers on the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) who are widely expected to raise key short-term interest rates at a meeting Tuesday.

Brisk sales may assuage concerns that higher interest rates could stall the economy.

A breakdown of the Commerce Department report showed motor vehicle retailers were the weakest spot.

Elsewhere, however, retail sales advanced a wide front.

In advance of holidays, sales of electronic and appliance goods surged one percent and Internet and mail order retailers also gained one percent.

Food and beverage sales climbed 0.6 percent, general merchandise store sales rose 0.4 percent, and restaurant and bar sales advanced 0.2 percent. AFP



AN EMPLOYEE arranges boxes in the window of a shop in a Hong Kong shopping mall, as shops promote Christmas holiday spending. The global economy is set to slow down during 2005, and this deceleration could yet turn into a full-blown slump if one of a number of potential threats take hold, a leading London-based think tank said.

US Fed seen raising key interest rates

WASHINGTON—With a fall in oil prices easing inflation concerns, the Federal Reserve is expected to continue its easy-does-it approach to raising interest rates, boosting a key rate by a moderate quarter-point at its final meeting of the year Tuesday.

Many analysts believe this pattern of gradual quarter-point rate increases will continue well into the new year.

Solid economic growth and an absence of inflation pressures mean Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan and his colleagues can take their time in moving away from exceptionally low interest rates.

"The essential picture the Fed sees is a well-balanced and sustainable economic expansion. It has the leeway to continue its measured steps," said economist David Jones, the author of four books on the Greenspan Fed.

The federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge on overnight loans, is now at 2 percent, up from a 46-year low of one percent, where it stood before the Fed began nudging rates higher on June 30.

Short-term consumer rates have been heading higher at the same gradual pace.

Banks' prime lending rate, the benchmark for millions of consumer loans, is now at 5 percent, up from 46-year low of 4 percent before the Fed began raising rates.

Even with a rate increase Tuesday, the funds rate and the consumer rates tied to it will still be at historically low levels.

Fed officials have said they are trying to gradually raise the funds

rate to a "neutral" level where it is neither promoting stronger economic growth nor depressing growth.

Many economists believe that level of the funds rate would be somewhere between 3 percent and 4 percent.

When oil prices were soaring to above \$55 per barrel in October, some analysts said the central bank would feel the need to accelerate its rate-tightening moves if it appeared that the big jump in energy prices was threatening to push overall inflation rates higher.

However, oil prices have retreated significantly from those highs, trading at around \$41 per barrel currently, a move that has helped ease concerns about inflation.

On the growth side of the ledger, there had been concerns earlier in the fall that a sputtering job market would force the Fed to put its rate hikes on hold for a while.

But October job growth surged by 303,000 and the November figure, while lower, showed a still respectable increase of 112,000 jobs.

Analysts said the Fed will continue monitoring the economy closely and keep nudging rates up slowly as long as job growth continues and inflation remains moderate.

"What the Fed does will depend on what the inflation and employment numbers do from month to month," said David Wyes, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

All analysts said they expected little change to the Fed's statement explaining its actions. AP

Motorola to cut business units

CHICAGO—Motorola Inc., the No. 3 maker of cell phones, on Monday said it will realign its business units to streamline operations and lower costs.

Motorola, whose shares rose 6 percent, said it will cut its remaining five divisions down to four. The company earlier this month completed the spin off of its semiconductor business.

The company's integrated electronic systems unit, which makes batteries, automotive products and computer boards, will be folded into other areas. Other units such as its mainstay cell phone business will be beefed up to give customers more choices, the company said.

It said the restructuring brings no change in reporting relationships and it has no immediate plans to cut jobs.

The company's personal communications business, which had focused exclusively on cellular phones, becomes a personal devices business, developing phones and cell phone-related products such as batteries. Ron Garrigue remains in charge of the business.

The company's global telecom solutions unit, which sells wireless networks, radio base stations and the IDEN push-to-talk communications systems for Nextel, becomes a more comprehensive networks business, Motorola said.

It will now include pieces of the company's broadband operations, including next-generation products and 802.XX, as well as computer boards. The group is headed by Adrian Nemcek.

Motorola's commercial, government and industrial solutions business (CGIS), which had sold two-way radios and other communications to police and government groups, will fold in the automotive products.

Finally, Motorola's broadband business becomes its connected home business, keeping existing satellite customers such as Comcast Corp., as well as developing security systems and other products for home users. Reuters

Japan bankruptcies slip for 23rd month in November

TOKYO—The number of Japanese firms going bankrupt fell for the 23rd straight month in November, helped by corporate revival programs and expanded government assistance, a research firm said on Tuesday.

The number of corporate bankruptcies in November fell 2.6 percent from the same month last year to 1,106 cases, marking the second-longest period of declines since World War II, Teikoku Databank said.

The total debt of bankrupt firms dropped 64.6 percent to 357.15 billion yen (\$3.41 billion), slipping below the 400 billion yen mark for the first time in five months to the lowest level this year.

Teikoku added that the stuttering economic recovery had yet to rehabilitate the fortunes of Japanese companies as a whole.

"Improved corporate earnings have helped to reduce bankruptcies, but that is limited to large, export-oriented com-

panies," the research firm said in a statement.

"Smaller domestic companies such as retailers and service providers are still suffering from a lack of demand." While a government survey showed last week that Japanese consumer confidence improved slightly in November, worries linger that the economic recovery is slowing.

A Reuters poll of 17 economists on Monday produced a forecast of 2 percent real growth in the year ending next March, followed by 1.2 percent growth in 2005/06.

A previous poll in October had yielded forecasts for real growth of 3.4 percent in the current year and 1.7 in the following.

Japan's economy grew just 0.1 percent in July-September compared with the preceding quarter, as exports to China and the United States slowed and the yen climbed to a five-year high against the dollar.

A Bank of Japan survey due on Wednesday is expected to show a fall in corporate sentiment from the previous survey in September.

Other analysts said that while the economy is still recovering, albeit at a slower pace, the banking sector remained a concern and more companies could go under, especially outside Japan's big cities.

"(The economy) is on the direction of positive growth, but the non-performing loan rate is still historically high, so that may drive a number of bankruptcies," said Hitoshi Asaoka, economist at the Mitsubishi Research Institute.

Major banks have made inroads into clearing their books of sour debts left over from overzealous lending in the bubble years of the 1980s.

Bad loans at Japan's seven major bank groups fell to an average of 4.4 percent of all lending at the end of September from 5.6 percent in March

and a peak of more than 10 percent at the start of the decade.

But the situation is different for many regional banks.

"The problem is basically concentrated in regional areas and not metropolitan areas," said Asaoka.

On a monthly basis, the number of firms that went bankrupt actually rose slightly by 3.9 percent, but the total debt of bankrupt firms dropped 47.5 percent.

The number of bankruptcies fell on a yearly basis in every industry except for the retail, transport and telecom sectors.

In November one listed firm went under: Media Lynks Corp. OJ, Teikoku said.

Two bankruptcies resulted from an earthquake in the Niigata region of northern Japan in October that killed 40 people, while those attributed to damage wreaked by typhoons numbered five. Reuters

Oil holds gains on winter forecast, lower supply

SINGAPORE—Oil prices extended gains above \$41 a barrel on Tuesday on forecasts of colder temperatures in the US Northeast, a supply cut by top Opec producer Saudi Arabia and disruptions to Iraqi crude exports.

US light crude rose 33 cents to \$41.34 a barrel, adding to a 30-cent rise overnight after falling earlier on Monday to \$40.25, the lowest since end-July and almost 28 percent below the record peak in October.

Forecaster Meteorlogix said on Monday temperatures were set to drop below normal in the next five days in the US Northeast, the world's largest heating oil market, ending a run of mild weather that had helped fuel producers build winter stockpiles.

But two investment banks remained cautious about the impact of the colder weather forecast on demand.

"We never try to call weather, but do note that on a degree-day-basis ... the

US is running 9 percent (50 heating degree days) warmer than normal. And as we all know, inventories, be they natural gas, oil or products, are more than adequate, unless Northern Hemisphere weather turns polar," Merrill Lynch said in a report.

Goldman Sachs said it had pushed its cumulative weather-related estimate for loss in demand to 36 million barrels, up 6 million barrels from last week, due to warmer-than-normal weather so far in the three major consuming regions worldwide.

Goldman Sachs also noted that industrial activity in Europe and Northeast Asia continued to weaken, with its leading index showing a rapid slowdown.

A preliminary Reuters survey of eight analysts ahead of Wednesday's release of weekly inventory data forecast an average build of 1.1 million barrels of distillates, including heating oil and diesel

fuel, for the week to Dec. 10.

This would be the fourth-straight week of increase as the mild Northeast temperatures thus far dampened demand, which was likely to hover around 4.0 million bpd, slightly below the Dec. 3 level of 4.1 million bpd, the survey showed.

Yet while heating oil stocks have been slowly rising, they remain about 13.5 percent below the year-ago level, prompting concern that supplies may be insufficient if the US winter is particularly cold, analysts cautioned.

Oil prices have been easing on the view that world crude stocks will be sufficient this winter, despite Opec's decision on Friday to rein in one million barrels a day of excess output.

Saudi Arabia is earmarked to cut 500,000 bpd. Refiners in Japan and South Korea, Asia's second and fourth biggest oil consumers, and Taiwan have been informed by Riyadh that supplies

would be cut by 8 percent in January.

Saudi sales to global oil companies also were reduced significantly, although traders said their companies requested lower supplies rather than having cuts imposed by Riyadh.

But Kuwait has told key term crude oil lifters in Asia it will supply full contract volumes in January despite the Opec decision, traders said on Tuesday.

"I'm not sure Kuwait is really committed to cut production. I think Saudi Arabia will be the only one to implement cuts among Opec producers," said a trader at a Japanese trading house.

The market was also reminded of the frequent disruptions to global supplies that had partly contributed to this year's price rally. Sabotage on Sunday stopped oil flowing through Iraq's northern export pipeline to the Turkish terminal of Ceyhan. Reuters

Buwis, smuggling at trabaho - Pagpasiyahan sa panig ng manggagawa at magsasaka!

Ang tambal na isyu ng fiscal crisis at mga bagong buwis ay hindi maaaring ihiwalay sa mas malawak na isyu ng kawalan ng trabaho sa industriya at lumiliit na kita sa pagsasaka.

Kami, mga pambansang pederasyon ng mga manggagawa at mga organisasyong magsasaka na nakikiisa sa **Fair Trade Alliance (FTA)**, ay naninindigan na:

- ✓ **Bago magpataw ng buwis ang pamahalaan, sugpuin muna ang karumal-dumal na smuggling na kumikitil sa industriya, agrikultura at trabaho.** Sa pag-aaral ng Fair Trade Alliance, mahigit P100 bilyon kada taon ang nawawala sa gobyerno dahil sa smuggling. Kung isasama ang halaga ng mga buhay ng mga manggagawa at magsasakang winasak ng mga smugglers, mahigit pa rito siguro.
- ✓ **Dapat itaas ng pamahalaan ang mga taripa sa mga imported na pumapatay sa mga lokal na produkto.** Bakit mas mababa pa ang mga taripa ng Pilipinas kumpara sa Tsina, Thailand, India at iba pang bansa na nagluluwas sa atin ng mga murang produkto? Ano ba ang prayoridad natin - paglikha ng trabaho sa Pilipinas o trabaho para sa ibang bansa?
- ✓ **Ibasura ang mga buwis na nakakapinsala sa trabaho ng mga ating mga manggagawa at kabuhayan ng ating mga magsasaka na ngayoy pinapanukala sa loob at labas ng gobyerno.**
- ✓ **Kung kailangang magpataw ng bago o dagdag na buwis, hindi ito dapat makadagdag sa lalong pagbulusok ng lokal na industriya at agrikultura.** Kapag lumalaki ang buwis na ipinapataw, maaaring mamamatay ang mismong pinapatawan nito. Sa huli, pati pamahalaan ay mawawalan ng koleksyon. **Improve tax collection, but do not erode the taxable base, the nation's agro-industrial base.**

Kaugnay nito, kami ay nababahala na

- sa usapin ng smuggling, puro **outright smuggling** ang tinatalakay ng Bureau of Customs sa Senado, at nakakalimutan ang isyu ng **technical smuggling** tulad ng undervaluation (hal., halaga ng Pajero itutumbas lamang sa \$450) misdeclaration (hal., karne idedeklarang prutas) atbp.
- sa cigarette o 'sin taxes', bakit hindi kinikibo ang isyu ng pagtitinda ng sigarilyo, alkohol, bokolate at iba pang produkto sa mga duty-free shops sa Clark, Subic at iba pang lugar na malayo sa international airports? Sa sigarilyo lamang, halos P7.5 bilyon kada taon ang nawawala sa pamahalaan dahil sa mga duty-free shops na ito. Ang mga sigarilyong ito ay yari sa labas ng bansa at wala halos inaambag na trabaho dito sa atin.
- hindi pinag-uusapan ang epekto sa tobacco farmers. May proposal na pagsama-samahin ang mga grado ng tabako - premium, high, medium at low, na ang ibubunga ay maglipitan lamang ang mga cigarette manufacturers sa premium. Paano na ang mga nagtatanim ng native tobacco? Bakit hindi bigyan ng incentives ang mga manufacturers na gumagamit ng locally-grown tobacco at dagdagan ng buwis ang puro imported ang gamit? Saing ayon sa pag-aaral, sa bawat trabaho sa cigarette factory, may katumbas na 30 tobacco farmers. Isasakripisyo ba natin sa abstraktong pangalan ng tax collection efficiency ang halos 65,000 magsasaka, 10,000 manggagawa at mahigit 300,000 kapamilyang umaasa sa kanila?
- hindi pinag-uusapan ang job-creation sa industriya. Bakit nga ba ipaparehas ang mga producers na puro imports ang ginagamit sa mga producers na mas gumagamit ng lokal na materyales at labor? Bakit ipaparehas ang operasyon na puro automated sa pabrikang mga tao ang nagpapatakbo?
- hindi pinag-uusapan ang iba pang buwis - buwis sa pagkunsumo ng mga luxury items, buwis sa pagkunsumo ng mga imported, buwis sa pagkunsumo na di lumilikha ng lokal na trabaho at kabuhayan.

Nananawagan kami
sa pamahalaan, sa Senado,
sa Kongreso, sa DOF at sa mga
mamamayan, bigyan natin ng
tamang direksyon ang usapin ng
fiscal crisis at new taxes. Ang isyu ay
paano palalakasin at pauunlarin
ang industriya at agrikultura
para lumikha ng sapat na trabaho at kita sa
pagsasaka at tunay na solusyon sa tinatawag na fiscal
crisis ng bansa.

Ibasura ang mga kontra magsasaka at
manggagawang buwis!

Walang tutulong sa mga Pilipino kundi mga Pilipino rin!

- | | |
|--|--|
| Atty. Ernesto Arellano
National President, National
Confederation of Labor (NCL) | Manuel P. Quiambao
President, Philippine Ecumenical
Action for Community Empowerment
(PEACE) Foundation |
| President, National Federation
of Labor (NFL) | Dr. Ernesto Ordoñez
Chairperson, Agriwatch |
| Angelito R. Mendoza
Convenor for Labor, Fair Trade
Alliance (FTA) | Virgilio Felezarda
Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga
Nagsasariling Lokal na Organisasyon
sa Kanayunan (UNORKA) |
| David L. Diwa, Jr.
National Secretary General,
National Union of Labor (NLU) | Romulo Tapayan
President, Kalipunan ng mga Maliliit
na Magninyong sa Pilipinas
(KAMMPN) |
| Oca Acerra
National President, Alyansa
ng Makabayang Obrero (AMO) | Marcelo Abaya, Jr.
President, Samahang ng Magsasaka sa
Bayan ng Moncada-Tarlac (SMBM) |
| Carlito P. Rellistan
National President,
Association of Democratic Labor
Organizations (ADLO) | Dr. Juanito L. Oliva
Board Chair, Cagayan Valley Center
for Empowerment and Rural
Development (CREDO) |
| Florentino P. Cruz
National President, Philippine
Association of Federated Labor
Unions (PAFLU) | Bobby Resurreccion
National President, Aniban ng
Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (AMA) |
| Butch Pepay
National Vice President for
Organization, Association of
Genuine Labor Organizations (AGLO) | Fred Pullarca
National General Secretary,
Nagkakaisang Lakes ng
Manggagawa (NLM) |
| Jerry Canja
National Secretary General,
Katipunan ng mga Samahang
Manggagawa (KASAMA) | Garments and Textile and Allied
Industries Labor Coalition (GARTEX
Labor) |
| Alberto Ronquillo
National Chairman, Kapatiran
ng Kristong Manggagawa, Inc.
(KKMI) | Manuel Arias
National President, National
Federation of Federated Labor Unions
(NAFLU) |
| Atty. Bayani Diwa
National Secretary General,
Unified Filipino Service Workers
(UFSW) | Atty. Ben Alar
National President, Fillpinong
Samahang Manggagawa (FSM) |
| Frank Mero
National President,
Automotive Industry Workers
Alliance (AIWA) | Pastor Tabiñas
National President, Pambansang
Katipunan ng mga Manggagawa
(PKM) |

United cuts benefits

CHICAGO—United Airlines took a first step toward achieving the additional labor savings it seeks in bankruptcy, imposing wage reductions on its 8,500 non-union employees that include an 11-percent pay cut for CEO Glenn Tilton and other top executives.

The airline, owned by UAL Corp., told employees on a company hot line Monday that the cuts will account for \$112 million of the \$725 million a year in labor savings it needs.

They do not include an additional 4 percent temporary reduction in salary that will take effect with the permanent cuts on Jan. 1 and remain in place until United emerges from bankruptcy.

The No. 2 US carrier has not specified a target date for its exit from Chapter 11, but with the industry still in financial turmoil that is now not expected until next fall.

"We believe that this is a fair and equitable way to achieve the immediate cost savings necessary to exit bankruptcy," United spokeswoman Jean Medina said. AP

Tilton's salary will now be \$605,625 as of Jan. 1, Medina said. He previously reduced his \$845,500 annual pay by 16 percent in August when United accelerated its push for labor cuts.

Pay cuts also will be 11 percent for the seven top executives who report to Tilton, along with 8 percent for officers, 6 percent for management employees and 4 percent for salaried workers.

The airline also said it is devising new benefit plans for the nonunion employees that could affect medical and dental programs, vacation and holiday schedules and sick leave.

United said it will achieve the rest of its savings for salaried and management employees through productivity enhancements totaling at least \$30 million annually. It did not specify the savings.

Management remains in difficult negotiations with its unions over the bulk of the labor cuts, hoping it does not have to ask a bankruptcy judge to put them into effect next month in lieu of an agreement. AP

Asian stocks track Wall St. jump focus on US Fed moves on rates

SINGAPORE—Asian shares rose on Tuesday after US stocks hit multi-year highs, with exporters cheering an unexpected rise in American retail sales, and the dollar held steady ahead of an anticipated US interest rate rise.

Oil climbed 31 cents to \$41.32 a barrel on fears that heating oil supplies in the US Northeast could fall short of demand and after top Opec producer Saudi Arabia cut supplies.

The dollar was mostly steady. Traders were awaiting data on the US current account deficit on Thursday, after worries over large imbalances helped push the US currency to a series of record lows against the euro.

Gold slipped to around \$437 an ounce, while Japanese government bonds edged higher.

Financial bookmakers expected Britain's FTSE 100 to open higher, tracking gains on Wall Street.

Most Asian share markets



GREENSPAN

rose, but investors were cautious ahead of the Fed's expected quarter-point rise in interest rates, due around 1915 GMT,

and the Bank of Japan's quarterly tankan corporate sentiment and capital spending survey on Wednesday.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock index closed up 1.2 percent at 10,915.58, lifted by exporters. Sony Corp. jumped 1.3 percent, helped by the stronger-than-expected retail sales data in the United States, Japan's biggest export market.

The rally on Wall Street and sound retail sales data restored confidence over US consumer spending. That's giving a boost here," said Kenichi Azuma, equity strategist at Cosmo Securities.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan had risen 0.8 percent by 0615 GMT, led by technology shares after gains in their US peers.

Hong Kong shares had climbed 0.8 percent by midday, but concerns about a legal challenge to a \$3 billion real estate investment trust IPO for the

Housing Authority's capped gains.

Taiwan shares rose half a percent, led by a one percent rise in Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Stocks rose 0.6 percent in Australia and South Korea.

Exporters led gains in Asia, with Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. jumping up 2.6 percent, Toyota Motor rising 2.3 percent and Toshiba Corp. up 1.4 percent.

Shares in resource companies rose on strong commodity prices, with BHP Billiton rising 1.8 percent in Australia.

Canon Inc. climbed 2.3 percent after the company said it would likely see a record profit in 2005, thanks to robust sales of profitable printers and copiers.

The dollar was steady at late New York levels around 104.85 yen, but below Friday's one-month high of 106.20. The euro bought around \$1.3290, down slightly from \$1.3310. Reuters

After 18 months, Oracle clinches PeopleSoft with \$10.3-B deal

SAN FRANCISCO—PeopleSoft Inc. on Monday agreed to a sweetened \$10.3 billion buyout by rival software maker Oracle Corp., relenting after an 18-month takeover saga marked by personal insults, courtroom battles and the ouster of PeopleSoft's chief executive.

Oracle's \$26.50-per-share bid, which creates the world's second largest business software maker, was approved by the board of directors of both companies just three weeks after PeopleSoft had again rejected a deal, despite support from a majority of its shareholders.

The deal, which is expected to close by early January, topped Oracle's previous offer of \$24 a share, which Oracle had insisted was its

best and final bid. The takeover has already received US and European Union antitrust approval.

Oracle believes the acquisition of PeopleSoft will help it better compete with market leader SAP AG in the market for software that helps companies automate business processes such as payroll and inventory-tracking.

The deal underscores the sluggish growth driving consolidation in the software industry, according to Eugene Walton of Walton Holdings, an independent technology stock research firm.

"It tells everyone else in the software business that it truly is a no growth business," Walton said. "If (Oracle) can get PeopleSoft this way, then anything goes.

No software company can protect themselves from not being acquired."

Oracle co-founder and chief executive Larry Ellison launched an offer for PeopleSoft with a bid of \$16 a share, or about \$5.1 billion, in June 2003.

PeopleSoft shares jumped about 10.3 percent to \$26.43 on the Nasdaq to their highest level in 19 months. Oracle shares rose about 9.6 percent to \$14.55, an 11-month high.

During Oracle's US antitrust trial over the summer, analysts who evaluated the implications of a merger estimated in court testimony that between 6,000 and 10,000 PeopleSoft employees could be laid off.

The deal was announced on the same day Oracle and PeopleSoft were scheduled to appear in Delaware Chancery Court for a hearing on Oracle's lawsuit to void PeopleSoft's shareholder rights' plan, which had been the last barrier to a hostile takeover.

Triggering the rights' plan, or poison pill, would have made a deal prohibitively expensive for Oracle.

The two rivals had held "friendly" merger talks in June 2002 before discussions broke down over who would run the company and how a merged company would operate.

Some analysts said they believed Oracle overpaid for PeopleSoft. Reuters



PEOPLESOFT INC. agreed to a \$10.3-billion buyout by rival software maker Oracle Corp. on Monday, finally relenting after an 18-month takeover saga. The merger will create the world's second largest business software maker. AFP

Canon

make it possible with canon

Canon Technology

We give the best minds the best opportunities. In a work environment where excellence is the minimum. Where there is life in the workplace, and life after work itself. Where we design and develop products for use worldwide. Canon Information Technologies Philippines puts a premium on highly motivated **engineers** and **scientists** who refuse to settle for ordinary jobs.

Discover career opportunities in Canon Information Technologies Philippines. Aside from quality digital cameras and color photocopiers, we engage in leading-edge software development and integrated circuit design. Find out how we can figure in your future. Contact us today.

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.

2nd Floor Techno Plaza One
18 Orinard Road, Eastwood, Quezon City 1110
E-mail: epobox@oltech.com.ph


DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
 Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the "REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2) PASSENGER ELEVATOR CARS" at the Manila wing of the DOLE Building with an approved budget for the contract of P6 Million Pesos.

Interested bidders must register and submit registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Murelle Street, Intramuros, Manila starting December 15, 2004. The checklist of requirements for registration shall be secured from the same office. Deadline for registration is on January 3, 2005.

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE may be allowed to participate in the competitive bidding activities, to wit:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference	January 4, 2005	1:20 p.m.	Conference Room 2nd Floor DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	January 17, 2005	Between 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	- same -
Submission of Bids	January 26, 2005	Between 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	- same -

Eligibility requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-Bid Conference or they can be secured on January 4, 2005 at the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila.

Eligible Bidders are also enjoined to inspect the DOLE premises prior to the conduct of the Pre-Bid Conference in coordination with the General Services Division, Administrative Service.

Eligibility documents shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) in a sealed envelope marked with the title of the project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters addressed to the undersigned on the date and time specified. Registered bidders are invited to witness the eligibility check on the said date at exactly 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

Interested bidders are requested to present their proposals, personally or through their authorized representatives, on the date of the bidding. The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information, please get in touch with Mr. Jy Paul L. Guerrero and Ms. Liberty C. Angeles, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 927-3480 and 927-3583.

(Sgd.) Atty. BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO JR.
 Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee and
 Assistant Secretary for Policy and Program Support

(PDI-Dec. 15 & 22, 2004)


National Power Corporation
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-PSD-2005-02

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for plant requirement.

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: JANUARY 19, 2005: 8:00 a.m.			
2A1	PRIMARY SUPERHEATER, REHEATER & ECONOMIZER TUBES	2BCE-04-781 (M)	P68,599,099.40

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding Room on January 5, 2005 at 9:00 AM. Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non refundable fee of PHP 5,000.00 starting on December 22, 2004. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents is mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. No bid documents will be issued three (3) calendar days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMED, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by other NPC Offices will be honored provided that the Certificate is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall comply with the bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of the Republic Act 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, One Percent (1%), surety Bond, Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever in other expenses or losses that bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN

PSD-NPC

(PDI-Dec. 15, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC


MR. EMMANUEL B. BATARA, whose picture is shown above, is no longer connected with Gold Carousel Investments Ltd. and Positive Goal Entertainment Philippines, Inc. Any transaction entered into by Mr. Batara in the name of the said organizations starting October 31, 2004 is considered null and void.

(PDI-Dec. 15, 2004)

NOTICE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Notice is hereby given that at 10:00 AM on 1st March 2005 a hearing will be held before Mr. Justice Lugar-Mawson in the Hong Kong Court of First Instance in respect of absconder proceedings leading to a confiscation order under the provisions of Section 8 of the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance, Cap 455 of the Laws of Hong Kong, in respect of the following persons and companies who are named as Respondents.

Amador PASTHANA Philippines passport ZZ017001 Date of birth 4th May 1972.	Respondent 1
Alpha Company Ltd Company No 15011	Respondent 2
Jindell Investment Ltd Company No 367520	Respondent 3
Jupiter Advisory Ltd Company No 407452	Respondent 4
First Pacific Company Ltd Company No 7009	Respondent 5
Systems International Ltd Company No 105043B	Respondent 6
Calimax Enterprises Ltd Company No 407451	Respondent 7
Cyplus Company Ltd Company No 114160B	Respondent 8
Jopio Company Ltd Company No 16592	Respondent 9
Nobuko Investments Ltd Company No 371740	Respondent 10
Prudence International Ltd Company No 16156	Respondent 11
Wains International Company Ltd Company No 391025	Respondent 12
Moneycare International Ltd Company No 407450	Respondent 13
Chamomile International Ltd Company No 741159	Respondent 14
Highstone Investments Ltd Company No 112158B	Respondent 15
Sabre International Ltd Company No 6470	Respondent 16
Vantage International Management Group Inc. Company No 8403	Respondent 17
Union Trading Ltd Company No 15014	Respondent 18
Novelle Investment Partners Ltd (Bahamas) Company No 81563B	Respondent 19
United Resources Asset Management Inc SEC Reg No A200005310	Respondent 20
Allied European Holdings Ltd Company No 8313	Respondent 21

Any person or company who is a Respondent can obtain a copy of documents and affirmations in relation to the hearing from either Ma. Elmira A. Alconaba, Assistant Director, Compliance and Enforcement Department, Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, or Detective Senior Inspector David COPE, Financial Investigations Division, Hong Kong Police, 21st Floor, Arsenal House West Wing, Police Headquarters, Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. HCMP 4221 of 2002 refers.

(PDI Dec. 15, 16 & 17, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY
 Batac 2906 Ilocos Norte

ANNOUNCEMENT

The President of Mariano Marcos State University was appointed Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education effective 28 October 2004. The position was, therefore, declared vacant effective on the same day.

Accordingly, a Search Committee for the Presidency has been organized pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 8292.

Applicants must possess the minimum qualifications and must submit the required documents as follows:

Minimum Qualifications of Applicants

1. Filipino citizen
2. Holder of an earned doctoral degree
3. Preferably not more than sixty (60) years old at time of application
4. At least five (5) years of managerial experience
5. Recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academic or industry
6. Morally upright

Documents to be Submitted

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae and certified supporting documents
2. Proposed Vision, Mission and Trusts for the University
3. Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Sandigan Bayan, Civil Service Commission and previous employer
4. Full disclosure of all administrative, criminal and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines
5. Results of Neuro-Psychiatric Examination to be accomplished by any government physician of an accredited health institution
6. Health Certificate from a government physician

All applications must be submitted in seven (7) copies to the Search Committee through the Secretariat on or before January 15, 2005.

Dr. Alegria T. Visaya
 Acting Secretary, Board of Regents/SCP

Ms. Jennifer M. Salubayba
 Executive Assistant IV

Mariano Marcos State University
 Batac 2906 Ilocos Norte
 Tel. No. 077-792-2560
 Fax No. 077-792-3191
 e-mail: mmsuop@yahoo.com

Commission on Higher Education
 DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
 Ortigas Center, Pasig City
 Telefax: 02-638-4870,
 Tel. No: 02-687-6083
 e-mail: jmsalubayba@ched.gov.ph

(PDI-Dec. 15, 19 & 24, 2004)


Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
 (Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently with Philippine Contractors Association Board (PCAB) license to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project described below:

Project Title: Proposed Rehabilitation & Upgrading of the Assembly Hall, 3rd Coliseum Bldg.
Scope of Work: Renovation of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed rehabilitation and upgrading of the assembly hall in accordance with the approved plans & specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Project Location: A. Mabini cor P. Ocampo St., Manila
Approved Budget: Twenty Eight Million Seven Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Seven Pesos (P28,798,457.00)
Source of Funding: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Contract Duration: Study calendar days (60 days)
Minimum Requirement (Qualify): Registration: Participants of at least "Medium B" (Building and Industrial Plans)

Contractor's Construction Experience: Should have completed within the last five (5) years (1999 to present) at least two (2) projects involving similar works and construction of commercial/corporate projects requiring high-end finishes and excellent workmanship such as 5-Star Hotels, Universities, and theaters one of which costs not less than Twenty Five Million Pesos.

Confidence of Satisfactory Performance: Should be able to submit notated a Record of Satisfactory Performance for at least two completed projects one of which costs not less than Twenty Five Million Pesos.

Net Financial Contracting Capacity: At least Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00)

Eligibility Statement Form: All need Two Million Nine Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,900,000.00)

Cost of Forms: Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00 each)

Date of Issuance: December 16 to 27, 2004
Deadline of Submission: January 5, 2005

Notice of Eligibility/Qualification: January 14, 2005
Deadline of Documents Submission: Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) January 17 to 18, 2005

Date of Issuance: January 21, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference: 5:00 AM
Venue: MR2A 2nd Floor, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor P. Ocampo St.

Submission and Opening of Bids: February 18, 2005
Deadline of Submission: 10:00 AM

For response, please call BAC Secretariat: Telephone no. 921-7311 local 3143

The venue for the opening and submission of accomplished eligibility statements and bid documents is at the BAC Secretariat, Floor 2nd Floor, First Storey Building, BSP Complex, A. Mabini cor P. Ocampo St., Manila 939 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Schedule for issuance of notice of eligibility/qualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation shall apply. BSP reserves the right to reject or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid as it may deem most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever in other expenses or losses that bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) MA. DOLORES B. YUENCO
 Chairperson

(PDI Dec. 16 & 25, 2004)

OBITUARIES

The 78 summers of her life were lived
 with immense faith and strength.
 Finally, Eve is coming home...

Nieves Pascasio Mendoza

surrendered to God's sweet embrace
 on the 13th of December 2004

She shall be deeply missed by her husband Jake; her children Nanette & Stephen, Anthony, Joey, her grandchild Stephanie, her loving sister Siory, her nephews, nieces, grandchildren: Chito & Flora, Jungie, Lisa, Mirabelle, Mikko & Enzo. Her relatives request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel.

Cremation will take place on Saturday, December 18, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. Interment follows at San Felipe Neri Parish, Mandaluyong City at 3:00 p.m.

"...absent from the body
 to be present with the Lord."
 — 2 Corinthians 5:8



*An obituary
 with a picture
 can be a fitting tribute to
 your departed loved one.*

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

CREDIT CARDS
 and bank-to-bank
 payments

OBITUARY
 • Copy of Death Certificate
 • Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
 • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

GOLDEN HAVEN

for as low as
Php 1,500
reservation fee

Avail our affordable financing schemes:
 1-5 years amortizations
 1-3 yrs Deferred Cash Zero Interest (0%)

829-27-65 829-28-76 875-29-22 875-29-23
 40 GIMPI BLDG., ALABAMA-BAPOTE RD., ZAPOTE LAS PIRAS CITY

2004 CONSUMERS CHOICE AWARDEE
"Most Outstanding Memorial Park"
 CONSUMERS LEAGUE OF THE PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION INC.



OBITUARIES

"Go to sleep in peace. God is awake."

— Victor Hugo



WILLIAM T. CHUA, Esq.

Born October 6, 1955,
left the uncertainties of this world
and joined the certainty of Christ's salvation
at the age of 49 on December 13, 2004
after receiving the last rites.

He is survived by his loving wife Betty,
his dear children Brian Kim (Wachu),
Derek Ken (Siopao), and Kristel Kara (Kassie).

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor,
Santuario de San Antonio Memorial Chapel, Forbes Park,
Makati. The funeral mass will be held on Saturday,
December 18, 2004, at eight o'clock in the morning.

Cremation will immediately follow at the
Heritage, Park, Fort Bonifacio.

"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

The Law Firm of **ARROYO CHUA CAEDO** and **CORONEL**
(formerly Azcuna Yorac Sarmiento Arroyo and Chua)

announces the death of its Managing Partner

WILLIAM T. CHUA

who died on the 13th of December 2004
at the age of 49.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, and children,
Brian, Derek and Kassie, with whom we deeply condole.

His body lies in state at the Capilla del Señor,
Santuario de San Antonio Memorial Chapel, Forbes Park,
Makati. The funeral mass will be held on Saturday,
December 18, 2004, at eight o'clock in the morning.

Cremation will immediately follow
at Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio.

*I am the Resurrection & the Life,
He who believes in Me will Live,
even though He dies, and whoever
believes in Me will never die."*

John 11:25-26

Elsie Canoy Escobar

March 26, 1925 – December 10, 2004

Even as we mourn her passing, we celebrate her life and legacy as
she is now with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are very grateful
to God for her earthly life with us.

Her loving husband Yoyong; children & sons in law Mitzi & Bill
Buot, Eileen & Hector San Juan, Laureen & Helene. Grandchildren:
Chris, Debbie & Joy Buot, Jasi, Julian, Jerome and Justin San Juan.
Brothers & sisters-in-law Henry & Inday, Nestor & Lita, Reuben &
Lon, Sister and brother-in-law Yoling & Jorge Limjoco. Nephews,
nieces and cousins.

Her body lies in state at Greenhills Memorial Chapel, Bulua Cagayan
de Oro. Interment on Saturday, December 18, 2004., 2:30 p.m.

"Whenever I am afraid,
I will trust in you."

Psalm 56:3

ENGR. NORMAN VASQUEZ GARENA

Peacefully joined his
Creator on December 12, 2004
at the age of 42.

His loving wife Annie; parents Juanito and Basilisa,
parents-in-law Mama Remy and Tito Ben, brothers and
sisters Veronica and Dante, Heinrich and Annie Rachel
and Albert and Antoneille and Rommel, aunts and uncles,
cousins, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request
the faithful to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels
in Sucat, Parañaque. A mass in Holy Trinity at 8:00 a.m.
will precede the interment in Manila Memorial Park, Sucat,
Parañaque on Thursday, December 16, 2004



"I am
the way,
the truth
and the
life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me."

John 14:6

Magilende "Inding" B. Ramirez

of Balabon, La Union

Peacefully joined our Lord on
December 14, 2004 at the age of 91

Her remains lie in state at Baltazar
Chapel, La Funeraria Paz -- Sucat
(inside Manila Memorial Park).

Her family requests the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose
of her soul.



We lovingly remember

On the

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

MENELIO B. SAMSON

July 24, 1935 - December 15, 2004

Centro Escolar University
College of Diplomacy 1959

His loving wife Lyllia; child Melby and son
in law Jack, & grandchildren Biggs, Alodia,
Lynelle request friends and relatives to join
them in prayers for the eternal repose of his
soul.

Holy Masses will be offered for his intercession.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT •
MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

WE DESIGN OBITUARY
FOR FREE.



*An obituary with a picture can be a
fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

① Copy of Death Certificate; ② Any identification document (I.D.)

Marketing experts show how to find good luck at work and in life

By Regina Galang Reyes

BUSINESS book authors have of late been using fables or stories to spice up the content and perk up the sales of their books like the bestsellers "Who Moved My Cheese?" and "Fish." This may be a knee-jerk reaction to the fact that readers of business books may already have reached their point of satiety with an abundance of books that make for "heavy" reading. However, like a rich chocolate cake after a heavy meal, a reader can also get too much of their just desserts with one fable after another offering lessons on leadership and organizational development.

This time, two authors from one of Spain's most respected business schools, ESADE, try to whip up another fable curbs business/motivational book, as an addition to the existing menu of bestsellers. Their book

is entitled, "Good Luck: Create the Conditions for Success in Life & Business" (Jossey-Bass 2004). The two authors also happen to be marketing experts with Alex Rovira being the co-author of the Spanish version of the book, "Understanding the Customer" and Fernando Trias de Bes being the co-author (with Philip Kotler) of "Lateral Marketing." How they get in touch with readers to inspire them to success through the book is a test of their marketing savvy.

A different fable

"Good Luck," differentiates itself from other books, by providing two inspirational stories—a story within a story. The first is a modern story of two old friends who meet by chance 50 years after they last saw each other as children. The two friends are a study in contrast: Max started out poor as a kid and ended up a wealthy businessman while Jun, who inher-

ited a fortune, ended up practically a pauper. Ironically, the unsuccessful friend pointed to luck as the cause for his failure and the success of the other. As they ruminated on their fortunes, Max tells Jun a fairy tale that helped him achieve his success.

The fairy tale seems like any other ordinary fairy tale, complete with knights, enchanted forests and magical creatures. It even has the wizard Merlin thrown in for good measure. The tale begins when two knights out of thousands take up Merlin's challenge to find a magic clover in the Enchanted Forest. Each of the knights meets several creatures of the forest. Each encounter leads one to failure and the other closer to success with one knight earning the prize of "finding" the much sought after clover at the end of the tale.

Through the characters and the storyline appear to be, the reader can get caught up in the story as it

unfolds since the tale becomes more and more relevant to the modern world. In the tradition of fairy tales, the book offers moral lessons. 10 of them in fact, as a Good Luck Rule is offered after each chapter. Then, at the end of the book, the mother of all lessons is offered, the Moral of the Story being, of course, that "Creating Good Luck consists only in... creating the conditions."

Lessons galore

With all these goody-goody conclusions, amazingly enough, the book doesn't come off as sentimental. It can even soften the most hardened of corporate hearts. Why? Perhaps the reason may be that all of us have very personal experiences of successes and failures at work and in life. Most of us may even view that we have more of failures than successes and that only a few "lucky" individuals are consistently successful.

We may even wonder how we can ever hope to lift ourselves from our failures. Thus, the story can evoke from the reader a strong sense of empathy and the lessons, though they may be, grip our emotions and tug at our heartstrings.

My guess is, the authors might just get lucky and end up with a best-seller. Like fairy tales that are never forgotten even when we grow up, this "fable" and its moral lessons, once read, may become corporate legend as it empowers people to hold their destinies in their own hands in the workplace and in life.

Good Luck



Create the Conditions
for Success
in Life & Business

Alex Rovira

Fernando Trias de Bes

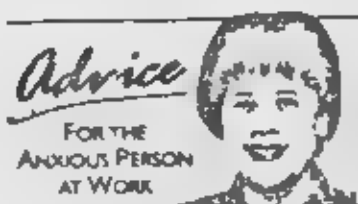
'I want to be a preschool teacher!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I READ your advice column at inq7 online and I am familiar with Ancilla when I worked as a consultant for a search company in the same building. I have been working in human resources for about seven years now. At present, I am an HR officer of a small IT company in Makati. However, lately I no longer feel good about my job. I no longer like recruitment work the way I liked it before. It feels so tiring now, dragging myself to work lately. I also had a baby this year.

I have been trying to apply as a preschool teacher since this is the career I wanted in the first place when I graduated from college. I did not pursue my dream because of my parent's advice. Now, I feel that I want to be a preschool teacher and retire as a preschool teacher. However, I cannot easily get a job as a preschool teacher because I do not have a background in education. Could you advise me on what is the best way to get a job as a preschool teacher without having to get units in education? I once heard of my friend, who was not an education graduate but a Physical Therapy graduate. He has no experience in teaching. Instead, he worked as a telemarketer but landed a job as a preschool teacher. I applied in the same preschool but did not get the job. I was wondering what could have gone wrong.

If I will not be given the chance to work as a preschool teacher then I will probably be in HR for the rest of my career life. However, I think that I cannot get a job at a multinational company because I cannot express myself very well in English. I have asked some institutions offering English communication skills. However, I cannot afford their fees. I cannot confidently converse in straight English using the right words and grammar especially in front of someone during interviews. Sometimes, even in my present task I have difficulty interviewing applicants who are well-versed in the English language. I don't really like to mingle and talk to people. I am not even a reader. How do you think I can possibly improve on my skills so that I



Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

can land a job even as a trainer in a multinational company or perhaps as a freelance consultant? Thank you very much.

Education Advocate

Thank you for your letter. First of all, as a working mom myself, I can empathize with your situation. You are trying to balance work and caring for the baby, often through difficult nights what with the feeding and changing of diapers that need to get done. Ask yourself, whether or not the reason you are dragging your feet to work is because of fatigue or perhaps postpartum blues. I suggest at this point you don't make an immediate change in terms of career. First, gain your balance in your new role as a mother. Change experts suggest the best way to handle change is to do it one major change at a time. Otherwise, you will feel overwhelmed and change becomes more difficult.

Once you have found the comfortable rhythm in balancing work and motherhood and then you may proceed. My first suggestion is for you to go into career planning. Think through carefully your life vision and mission. Also surface your life values, they will provide the anchor when you have to decide on conflicting actions. This is best done in unity with your husband. As your life partner, he would need to be supportive of your goals and decisions.

Then, reflect on the type of work that will fulfill you as a person. Assess your personality. I am sure you can ask your friends who are into testing for a temperament inventory to validate if you are an introvert. You mentioned you "don't like to mingle or talk with people." If you are, then a job in human resources, specifically recruitment would be stressful. Develop a list of skills and competencies you have gained the past years. This list will help you think through possible job options that will bring out the

best in you.

If you think becoming a preschool teacher is still for you, then develop a job search plan. You are aware of the basics required since you currently do recruitment work. Prepare a great resume that outlines clearly without exaggeration your work experiences and competencies. Then, practice for a job interview. Simulate the questions that will be asked and the answers you will give. Rehearsing for an interview gives you greater competence and confidence. Move on to prepare for practice teaching. Deal with a subject that you are most familiar with. Armed with these tools, try to get a list of preschools around the place where you live and send your resume. I assume you want to stay close to home. Then follow through with phone calls or personal visits. Come across as a professional.

If you decide to stick to the field of human resource management, then you have to invest and improve your English language skills. I went over your letter. My assessment is you have the basic vocabulary and proficiency in written language. You are right on the lapses, you have on occasion, wrong word use and grammatical errors. If you can't afford to attend formal courses, then get a friend or relative who is willing to act as your tutor for free. Agree on daily English conversation for 10 to 20 minutes. Tell your tutor to correct you and give you feedback at the end of the session. Another way is to go to the bookstore and buy English language tapes that you can listen to while caring for your baby. Oral English is a skill that is learned through constant practice. You need to have the willpower to invest time and effort. All the best.

Ancilla has need for 10 human resource and organization development consultants for its 2005 expansion. We prefer individuals who are experienced and totally available. Please send your resumes in December in time for our January consultant orientation and training.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancilla.aedc.com.ph or fax to 892 2902.)

Be part of People at Work

WOULD you like to be part of a family that can help you in your career growth and development? Join the People at Work community where members support each other in the quest for a better career and life. People at Work columnists, writers and editorial staff will also be part of this group to lend you a

helping hand. Working professionals, jobseekers, human resource executives and practitioners, managers, trainers, consultants and all others willing to share and help are welcome to join. Members will have access to updates and discounts on People at Work events, advice from People at Work columnists and

writers and other members, chat schedules with members and "eyeball" events. To join, send your name, gender, civil status, age, contact number, e-mail address, company name and position true (if applicable) to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or fax to tel. no. (632) 938-2092 or text to 02-937-0376.

What does it take to start an HR consulting practice?

By Roberta Chinsky Mattison
HR Monster Contributing Writer

AH, the life of an independent HR consultant. Work when you want to work, work only on interesting projects, answer to no one but yourself and make lots of money. Sounds great.

That's what comes to many people's minds when they start thinking about going out on their own. But you need to know the reality of what it takes to start an HR consulting practice.

Jack-of-all-trades

In the corporate world, resources are at your fingertips. Need help with a computer problem? Just call the help desk. Want to launch a new product? Pull together a team of people and have them work on the marketing plan.

An independent consultant, on the other hand, has to do it all. Just ask Helene Bucher of Wellesley, Massachusetts, who has been an independent HR consultant since March 2001. She's the CEO of her own firm, as well as vice president of marketing and sales, IS, chief financial officer, project manager and administrative assistant. The hat she wears depends on the hour of the day.

Not only does Bucher have to switch gears at a moment's notice,

but she also has to continually market her services while completing the projects she already has.

If you are planning to go out on your own, be sure you enjoy multitasking, because you will be doing a lot of it.

Weathering ups and downs

Most people do the math before they cut ties with the corporate world. It usually goes something like this: They figure they can buy 30-plus hours a week at a certain rate and all will be fine. It looks good on paper, but don't expect to make it in the first or second year.

Gail Finger, principal of Amherst, Massachusetts-based Finger Consulting, has been in practice for two years. She advises those considering going off on their own to "think about whether or not you can tolerate not having a regular salary and benefits."

Because Finger has been self-employed before, she knew what she was getting into, and she describes her journey as "exciting, rewarding and fun." Even so, she notes, "The first year can be very stressful." Find out beforehand if the people closest to you support your decision to start your own business.

There will be some months where you make great money. Then there will be some months where you seriously contemplate taking a

second job to make ends meet. Be sure you have enough money in the bank to weather the ups and downs.

Be realistic

Don't underestimate how long it will take to get your practice off the ground. Bucher estimates it will take at least a year to meet expectations. Finger believes it takes two years to get things going.

Neither Bucher nor Finger foresaw the downturn in the economy, so it may take them even longer to build their businesses.

If your expectations are unrealistic, you will end up extremely frustrated and may even shut down just as things are about to take off. A reasonable timetable will help you stay on track.

Be prepared to sell your heart out

Sales is a major part of independent consulting. After all, most independent consultants are not in positions to hire sales forces when they first open their doors. If you are going to succeed, you need to be prepared to sell your heart out.

If you are not comfortable with your selling skills, consider enrolling in a sales training course.

(To be continued next week.)

(Reprinted with permission. Copyright by hmonsters.com.)

Work deadlines multiply risk of heart attack sixfold

PARIS—The pressure of meeting an important deadline at work increases by a factor of six the risk of suffering a heart attack within 24 hours, Swedish doctors say.

A short burst of intense pressure appears to have greater strain on the heart than accumulated stress over 12 months, according to their study, carried out among 3,500 people aged between 45 and 70.

The research appears on Tuesday in the Journal of Epidemiology and Health, published by the British Medical Association (BMA).

The Karolinska Institute study also suggests that praise from the boss could also be a risk factor for employees with weak hearts.

In some cases, workers who were beavering away on an important job and were praised by

their superior were felled by a heart attack within a day.

That risk is hard to quantify, though, because it is unclear whether the stress could be attributable to the deadline, the boss or both.

The data come from people in the Stockholm area who filled in questionnaires and responded to interviews and health examinations between 1992 and 1994.

AFP

Pinay programmer develops systems for Singapore banks

From page B16

in the office early to plunge into the development phase of a project. She can't afford to tarry because often she handles as many as three projects at one time. According to her, the work environment in Singapore is fast-paced. "Deadlines they set are often aggressive so you have to work extra hard to be able to achieve it," she says.

Surviving the culture

More than six years working with the Singaporeans, she has learned the virtue of always delivering on time. At first, Argosino was not used to the "no excuses" policy of her employers. And of course it is not enough to be just on time. Assuring quality results is a given. "This kind of work culture was really very overwhelm-

ing in the beginning, but I've slowly adapted to it. Work traits such as being keen to details and meeting deadlines on time are already ingrained in me," she says.

Adapting to this different culture is crucial to surviving because stress is the number one hazard of working in such an environment. Argosino swears that there are quite a number who have succumbed to the stressful and demanding corporate culture of the country and have crossed the borderline of sanity as a result.

Aside from stress, Argosino also has to deal with a multi-racial environment. After coping with being alone in a foreign place away from the comforts of family and home, she has to adjust to the different work habits of several ethnic races—Chinese, Malay and Indian. She claims that working in an environment where people

speak in different tongues could sometimes get distracting and intimidating, particularly when she's gathering technical data from end-users who are more comfortable with Malay, Mandarin or Tamil. Although most are bilingual and can speak English fairly well, their heavy accent makes it difficult for Argosino to communicate effectively.

Benefits and conveniences

In spite of the many challenges, Argosino has stayed for as long as she has because of the job's equally many benefits. In fact, after marrying another OFW who also works for another bank in the city, she agreed to continue their life together in the tiny republic. According to her, being a systems analyst in Singapore is very enriching in many ways. For one, working away from the

comforts of home taught her to fend for herself. "When I left for Singapore in May of 1998, I didn't even know how to iron and wash my clothes. But when I came here I had to do it," she recalls laughing.

Aside from the financial rewards, which is very considerable she claims as attested by her large collection of signature bags, Argosino enjoys the challenge. The whole project development stage is taxing and demanding but also very rewarding. "I love the challenge of being able to accomplish a project and actually see that the end result help the users cut down processing time and made them more productive."

Although the traffic-plagued streets of Manila will always be home for Argosino, she can't complain about Singapore's efficiency, cleanliness and safety. She

could have worked for multinational corporations in western countries but she chose Singapore. In Singapore, she gets to enjoy the privileges and conveniences of a first world country that is only three hours away from her hometown by plane.

Opportunity for Pinoy

A computer science graduate from the De La Salle University in Manila, she claims her Information Technology major is a great advantage. The hands-on training and the theoretical framework included in the curriculum helped her in the systems development cycle. But she also acknowledges the fact that a lot of professionals have excelled locally and abroad without a computer-related degree. In fact, Argosino has several coworkers who are business and engineer-

ing graduates.

Argosino encourages those who are geared towards the IT industry to consider working in Singapore. "Singapore is still opening up its doors for highly skilled foreign workers. There are still opportunities here for IT-related work," she says. She believes that our professionals could easily compete with the best in the world. "Our country has a huge potential with the emerging outsourcing trend because of our highly skilled and creative workers," Argosino adds that Filipinos adapt easily and could, therefore, excel in Singapore. Although she warns that Singaporeans expect a high level of performance, she is confident that Filipinos will fare well in the fast-paced world of the lion city. After all, she adds with a smile, "magabigad ang Pinoy!"

PEOPLE *at* WORK

Text us your feedback: inquirer.paw.html/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Raul O. Marcelo

Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Pinay programmer develops systems for Singapore banks



ARGOSINO CANDY G. VILLANUEVA CONTRIBUTOR

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

LOCATED in one of the crossroads of the world, Singapore is a thriving city with an economy that belies its diminutive size. At roughly 633 sq km, Singapore is populated by a little more than four million people. A small fraction of this tiny population is composed of overseas Filipino workers. The progressive city relies on a strong Information Technology backbone composed of quite a number of skilled Filipinos to keep the economic wheels turning. In the Management Information Systems Analytics group for consumer banking of the Development Bank of Singapore for example, a Filipina is responsible for the bank's different software applications. Geraldine Argosino is just one of the many Filipino systems analysts and programmers in Singapore.

Systems development

As systems analyst and programmer, Argosino is responsible for translating business specification requirements into its technical aspect by developing a system or an application. She coordinates with end-users frequently to gather data. After data collection, she proceeds to analysis then to development. But it doesn't stop there. She also handles system and integration testing. Post-production support like troubleshooting is also necessary. Before she can even complete the development phase, she is presented with another project to work on. Most of the time, her projects overlap. She often finds herself in the midst of three project phases—user-acceptance phase, development phase and post-production

phase. Argosino is skilled in Visual Basic, Systems Query Language Server, Oracle, scripting and Crystal reports among others. Aside from being knowledgeable in different

software and applications, she believes that good analytical skill is a must.

One of the most important financial centers of Asia, Singapore boasts of having over 130 banks. Most of these financial institutions rely on e-banking and financial systems designed by talented and creative Filipinos like Argosino. In fact, she was part of the team who developed modules to enhance the country's Citibank Sabre system. She also helped develop business systems for a global consumer banking group in Singapore and handled a project for Overseas Union Bank.

After a heavy dose of caffeine, Argosino is

FINOY/BIS

KARAKURI

As a member of the incredible Timecracker series, this clock features a three-part rotating face that is sure to amaze you. Its colorful design inspires a feeling of fun and whimsy. As if that wasn't enough, the face splits into three sections on the hour to reveal dancing hot air balloons that spin around to one of six contemporary DWS quality melodies.

Special Features.



Fun and whimsical.



Plays 6 delightful melodies.

On the hour, the face splits into three sections to reveal dancing hot air balloons

- Hourly melody
- 6 melodies (DWS sound)
- Automatic melody silencer by sensor
- Monitor switch
- Volume control switch



RHYTHM

Small World

www.timeline.com.ph

Available at:



MONTRE | 101 The Podium
Dofa Julia Vargas cor. ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
Phone: (632) 687-3077

Also available at the following stores:
Shangri-La Plaza Mall (02) 454-2180 • New Farmers Plaza (02) 423-8160 • SM City Manila (02) 522-0887
Market Market (02) 586-5650 • SM City Atrium (044) 833-2135 • SM City Pasay (043) 843-3721
SM City Balangas (043) 722-2378 • SM City Boto (033) 320-8854 • SM City Davao (082) 287-3688
SM City Cagayan de Oro (088) 858-1192

Timeline Inc. is a registered trademark of Timeline Inc.

PLDT myDSL
Velocity Broadband Internet

"For me, PLDT is the industry standard. No other broadband provider delivers like PLDT myDSL. When it comes to the Internet and telecommunications, it's No.1"
— Colette Goldstein, Tambuli Fashion and Home Accessories, Mandaue City Cebu

Cebu, Philippines

IN THE EXPORT INDUSTRY, BEING CONNECTED TO THE WORLD CAN SPELL THE BIG DIFFERENCE IN PROFITABILITY. THAT'S WHY TAMBULI FASHION AND HOME ACCESSORIES RELY ONLY ON myDSL. THEY HAVE TRIED OTHER BROADBAND PROVIDERS BEFORE, BUT NOTHING COMES CLOSE TO THE SPEED OF myDSL. WHETHER IT'S TO SEARCH THE NET FOR IDEAS FOR NEW DESIGNS, TRACK THE LATEST TRENDS, SEND PHOTOS TO CLIENTS OR ACCEPT ORDERS FROM OVERSEAS, PLDT'S FAST AND RELIABLE CONNECTIONS MAKE SURE TAMBULI NEVER MISSES A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY. COLETTE ATTESTS TO THE AMAZING RESULTS THEY GET WITH THEIR CONNECTION, "WE HAVE BECOME A MORE EFFICIENT WORK FORCE BECAUSE OF myDSL. EVERYTHING HAPPENS SO FAST. WE EMAIL DESIGNS TO OUR CLIENTS AND GET FEEDBACK WITHIN THE DAY. THERE'S HARDLY ANY DOWNTIME IN PRODUCTION AND

GET A FREE PRINTER AND PC WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE NOW!

PACKAGE	SPEED	MONTHLY FEE	# OF FREE PCs
SMALLBIZ LITE	512 KBPS	4,000	ONE
SMALLBIZ JR	768 KBPS	8,000	TWO
SMALLBIZ SR	1 MBPS	14,500	THREE

PRINTER IS AVAILABLE IN CMA, Cebu AND DAVAO.
*For details, please contact your PLDT myDSL representative.
*Promo limited to 1000 business customers.

PLDT

MOTORIZING

Text us your feedback: inquirer_mtr_name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Filipino skills prove parts are worth the SUM of the car

By Tessa R. Salazar

(First of three parts)

YOU may not know it but you may have been driving cars, sport utility vehicles (SUVs) or Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) whose wiring harness, gearboxes (transmission), tires, batteries, brakes, clutches, filters, radiators, silencer, exhaust pipes and alloy wheels are auto parts that have already been developed in, and are being exported from, the Philippines.

Notwithstanding the fact that it "only" has 256 auto parts manufacturers as compared to Malaysia's 350 and Thailand's 1,700, the Philippines is seen to have more potential to develop and export other auto parts because of the quality of the skilled manpower Filipinos have been known for.

These parts that have potential to be developed are steel and aluminum castings such as magwheel centerpieces and mag-wheel access, automachinery parts, auto wheel rims and discs, then rubber parts like automotive seals, O-rings, transmission supports, engine supports, suspension bushings, radiator supports, shock absorber bushings, oilseals and oil filters.

Filipino auto parts makers have the potential to develop interior parts such as the seat assembly, upholstery for car

seats, door trims, visor and headlining, carpets and fabricated parts like the console box, radiator shrouds and mud guards. That's not all. Filipino skills can also manufacture plastic parts such as windshield, carpet and siding clips, knob and guide, bezel and fusebox, as well as electrical components such as auto transmission units, alternators, starters and parts, car stereo and speakers, glass parts like the auto tempered glass and the design.

Fabrication and repair of plastic injection and die casting molds and tool and die design, among others, can also be done here.

The local strategy seems to be, if we can't build a car ourselves, then we'll settle for making the parts—and as many of them as possible. The goal is to have more Philippine-made parts installed in more vehicles.

Out of the 256 auto parts makers found in the country, 103 are members of the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP). Exactly 70 percent of these auto parts and components manufacturing companies are considered SMEs (small and medium enterprises), meaning these are 100 percent Filipino owned. The rest have multinational affiliations. Some of the auto parts makers who are not members of the MVPMAP are suppliers from Japan that were brought in by carmakers, said MVPMAP's Romeo Villadolid. These parts makers are under the umbrella of the car manufacturers and under their vertical inte-

gration, he added.

RP's 'little Detroit'

Who would think that Sta. Rosa, Laguna, with a land area of 5,000 hectares (or 54.14 square km), which is the south corridor of Luzon island and along the coastline of Laguna Lake would become the "little Detroit of the Philippines"?

Lying 45 km south of Manila, 12.3 percent of Sta. Rosa's land is still devoted to agricultural production. Figuratively, though, that is just the tip of the awakening dragon's head.

Sta. Rosa is home to other types of "plants," automotive assembly plants, that is. It has become home to Ford, Isuzu, Honda, Nissan, Toyota, Star, Columbia Motors and many other auto parts makers. The P4-billion, 30,000-square-meter Ford Philippines facility has current production of about 15,000 units. Its optimum capacity is 40,000 units a year. So far, Ford Philippines has exported 25,000 units since it started production in 2002. Its export markets are Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore. It has reputed itself as the sole exporter of CBU vehicles to its neighboring Association of Southeast Asian Nation countries.

Ford Philippines currently exports completely built-up units of the Ford Lynx and Mazda Protégé and Mazda3 sedans, the Ford Escape and Mazda Tribute SUVs to Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. It also exports completely knocked down units to Vietnam. The Department of Trade and Industry said the Ford export program in the Philippines would convince other auto companies to



put up assembly plants in the country and transform it into a CBU exporter.

The Toyota Motor Philippines plant started operations at the Sta. Rosa Complex in 1997. The sprawling complex is located at Barangay Pulong, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa, with a land area of 78 hectares and a plant area of 47,000 sq m. The plant has production capacities of 25,000 units per year (two shifts). It also has a Bicutan plant (Km 15 South Super Highway, Parañaque City), which has a land area of 61,000 sq m and a plant area of 39,000 sq m. It has a production capacity of 24,000 units per year. The Sta. Rosa plant assembles the Corolla Altis,

Camry and the old Corolla. The Bicutan plant produces Revo. Its employees number 1,232 as of May 31, 2004. Toyota autoparts manufacturing, meanwhile, has a land area of 147,378 sq m and a plant area of 28,083 sq m. Its products include a G-Type Transmission (for Hilux, Hiace) and it produces 200,000 units per year, adding 5 percent to the domestic sales of Toyota Motor Philippines.

The rest, or 95 percent of the units, are exported to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, India and South Africa.

Toyota Autoparts is also a maker of constant velocity joints (for Corolla),

HUPINQ/C2

The New KIA Sorento Diesel High-Performance 4x4 SUV at the price of an AUV

★★★★★
5-STAR SIDE-IMPACT
SAFETY RATING*



HANEP!

SORENTO

The SUV of the Year**. In the new diesel model. Equipped with the highly-advanced Common Rail Direct Injection (CRDI) diesel engine with Turbo Charger and Intercooler. With 5-speed automatic High Intelligence Vehicle Electronic Control (HIVEC) with adaptive sequential shifting. To give you more mileage. More power.

*U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Side Impact star rating. **U.S. based 4x4 magazine's Overall SUV of the Year (2004). Product Warranty: 3 Years/110,000 kilometers.

Experience the power of the new KIA Sorento at these authorized dealers:

KIA MANDALUYONG (SIGMET MANDALUYONG)
Tel: 531-4831 to 531-5310 Alameda Branch
Tel: 801-7888, 806-2230, 801-7688, 802-7024

KIA PASAY (ALPHA PHILMOTOR SALES CORP.)
Tel: 852-1552, 854-5934

KIA MAKATI (ALBA MOTORS)
Tel: 817-8106, 816-7271

KIA QUEZON AVE (M3 MART UNLIMITED, INC.)
Tel: 684-7636, 684-7672, 684-7818

KIA QUEZON AVE. (FEMAC MARKS, INC.)
Tel: 412-4034, 412-5000

KIA COMMONWEALTH (PRINCE MOTOR CORP.)
Tel: 451-2201 to 16, 453-8318 to 28

KIA MAKINHA (DELTA MOTOR SALES CORP.)
Tel: 682-8580 to 8

KIA NEW MANILA (WHEELS, INC.)
Tel: 721-8456, 721-8465, 721-8448, 411-3409

LUTON KIA BATANGAS (BATANGAS LAGUNA AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Tel: 843, 178-4214 to 17

KIA DAVAO (AREZA MOTOR SALES)
Tel: 848-411-0041, 848-411-0040
Davao Branch Tel: 852-8241

DAETRO (DAUPHAN AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Tel: 875-517, 7949, 875-517-5048
875-522-5575

KIA LA UNION (AMARIAN AUTOCENTER & INDUSTRIES) Tel: 073-700-8888

KIA PAMPANGA (TRADERS AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Tel: 834, 261-1425, 848-981-3888, 861-1488
861-3333, 861-4344

YSAYAS & MINDANAO KIA CEBU (GATEWAY MOTORS CORP.)
Tel: 833, 344-3815, 344-3665, 346-7258

KIA CAGAYAN DE ORO (STERLING MOTOR CORP.)
Tel: 808-655-5640, 855-8105, 808-733122

KIA DAVAO (GS AUTOSHOP CORP.)
Tel: 862, 234-0257 to 58

KIA DAPOLDO (WESTERN MINDANAO AUTOMOTIVE CORP.)
Tel: 884-212-6851

KIA ILOILO (METRO ILOILO AUTO CENTER, INC.)
Tel: 833, 329-2888, 329-2222, 329-4630
Bacolod Branch Tel: 834-434-8078
Cebu No. 89-7308-140



Experience the
New KIA

MOTORING

4 more environment-friendly cars plying Singapore streets

By Cesar D. Mangawang

THESE they run. These are Mercedes-Benz "F-Cell" A-Class cars now plying the streets of Singapore. They were handed over on Dec. 3 in Singapore to four prominent partners of DaimlerChrysler as it paves the way for a zero emissions future. This brings to six the total of "super clean cars of the future" now on Singapore roads.

Guests during the handover were Manohar Khatami, director of Logistics and Transport Cluster of the Singapore Economic Development Board and director for Europe; German Ambassador Andreas Michaelis. Also on hand to answer questions was Dr. Klaus Bonhoff, head of strategy and market development, fuel cell and alternative powertrain vehicles, DaimlerChrysler AG from Germany.

The first one was released by DaimlerChrysler in July to the National Environment Agency for test bedding. The other one will be used by DaimlerChrysler Southeast Asia in the region.

The cars are part of DaimlerChrysler's largest practical fleet testing program for fuel cell vehicles worldwide. Other vehicles involved in the program are Citroen fuel cell buses in Europe, Australia and China, fuel cell vans used for courier services in Ger-



DR. Rainer Thiel

many and the United States and other partnerships in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

Said Dr. Rainer Thiel, DaimlerChrysler Southeast Asia Pte. Ltd. president and chief executive officer: "We have received a lot of positive feedback from the people who had a chance to test drive this innovative vehicle. In fact, we got numerous requests from individuals asking how they can be part of this testing program."

According to him, the Singapore government plays an important role in DaimlerChrysler's environment strategy for this part of the world. As a sign of support, then Prime Minister and now Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong visited Moehringen, Germany in June 2000.

Car use

Partners BP Singapore, Conrad Centennial Singapore, Lufthansa German Airlines and Michelin will be using the "F-cell" cars for two years. They make use of the F-Cell cars for a variety of activities.

Said Dr. Michael Jones, general manager, hydrogen,

BP Gas Power and Renewables: "BP Singapore employees will be using the vehicle in day-to-day activities. They will not only have the chance to learn more about its hydrogen activities but will record valuable information which will be analyzed as part of a BP-NUS (National University of Singapore) research fellowship program."

Conrad Centennial Singapore's car will serve as a hotel limousine for VIP guests. It can also be transformed to a wedding car for couples who hold their functions in the hotel.

Account managers of Lufthansa German Airlines will regularly use the F-cell car for sales visits to various clients. Lufthansa will be doing market promotions with radio stations in 2005.

Michelin Asia GM Alain Waha said Michelin is committed to promoting and encouraging cleaner and greener technologies, not only through annual Michelin Challenge Bibendum.

Unique relationship

According to Thiel, this unique relationship [with its partners] is going to bring mobility to a higher level. It gives us an opportunity to also bring mobility together with environmental compatibility and thereby make a contribution to the society, he stressed.

Said Thiel: The whole idea on fuel cell technology and sustainable mobility is far too important to be just the focus of one company. That is why we are happy to have found dedicated partners.



SIX of these fuel cell cars are now on Singapore roads.

Filipino skills prove parts . . .

From page C1

and are produced at a rate of 200,000 units per year as well, of which also 95 percent are exported to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, India and Pakistan.

Sta. Rosa is home to another automotive company, Columbia Motors, as well as several industrial parks such as the Santa Rosa Business Park, Meridian Industrial Complex, Greenfield Development and the Laguna Technopark developed by Ayala with two Japanese partners Mitsubishi Trading Corp. and JFE Steel Corp. (formerly Kawasaki Steel Corp.)

From its initial development of 220 hectares, Laguna Technopark expanded to 400 hectares. It now has a total of 108 locations, of which the automotive sector—car assemblers and auto parts suppliers—accounts for 32 percent out of the sold area.

Exactly 92.35 hectares belong to the automotive sector, reveals Ayala Laguna Technopark Inc. operations manager Lyle Abadia. These are car assemblers and auto parts suppliers.

Located inside the Technopark are Honda Cars Philippines, which has already expressed its intention to export CBUs by 2007. Honda support groups are under Philippine Export Economic Zone Authority. These support groups are allowed to export 70 percent. The 30 percent these support groups are producing automatically goes directly to the Honda Cars Philippines for the assembly.

The technopark is also home to Isuzu Philippines plant, which has a land space of 131,622 sq m and with employees numbering 671. From 2000 to 2003, export units of Isuzu

Philippines' CBUs has reached more than 90. It has also shipped to countries such as Vietnam for completely knockdown vehicles, and to Honduras and South America for CBUs.

Star Motors is also found inside Laguna Technopark. Abadia said this plant assembles light truck vehicles.

There are 25 auto suppliers inside the Laguna Technopark, 18 of which are exporting and seven are supplying the local automotive industry. These auto parts makers manufacture audio systems, brakes, airbags and seatbelts, clutch assemblies, vacuum fluorescent displays, plastic ventilators, seat fabrics, car seat assemblies, stamp metal parts for cars and motorcycles, auto seat recliners and some support groups are making clutch and brake parts for Honda.

Car sales not real barometer; Sportivo up close

I CAN'T believe this.

Car sales are down 5.2 percent in January-November?

If so, how come they keep rolling new models out of the assembly lines?

Toyota just recently launched its state-of-the-art Hi-Lux that saw Vince Sotto, the missed fella from Toyota Motor Philippines, fly over from his home of three years in Singapore just to attend the shebang at The Fontana at Clark in Angeles City.

And didn't Isuzu also unleash its 2005 Crosswind variant, not to mention the new Isuzu D-Max?

I'm getting confused

No, I'm not really that confused.

After all these years of covering the automotive industry—is it that long now, almost 20 years?—I've come to realize that sales have not always been reliable barometers of whether or not business is bad in the car world.

The truth is, good sales, bad sales, it doesn't mean much. Every business has its ups and downs. One car company suffering a decline in sales does not reflect the true picture of the industry. One car company's sales woes do not make for a bankruptcy in the entire automotive business.

If at all, car sales are mere indicators and do not necessarily reflect the real state of affairs in the motoring world.

As this was being written, the Honda Christmas party was just hours away. I promised Tin Tin Reyes that I'd attend the bash at Rockwell, not only because Rockwell is my favorite mall, but also because Honda has always been dear to my heart. Well, not simply because of Arnel Doria, Honda's super-reliable marketing/communications executive who is my kabaleyan, but also because I have a high regard for the Honda vehicle itself. The one thing I admire about Honda, besides its efficiency and durability, is its high resale value. A friend of mine had bought a secondhand Honda CR-V a year ago. I saw him recently and he said he has never been happier in his life after he had acquired his CR-V.

Take a bow, Arnel, Tin Tin?

Isuzu Philippines' launch of the 2005 Crosswind variants recently was also a head-turner in that the highly regarded Isuzu SUV stunned motoring buffs with its new styling and features that cater both to the family man and the yuppie alike.

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

Isuzu's new babe, the Sportivo, has now become the talk of the town among SUV lovers.

The new addition to the Crosswind family now features large one-piece multi-reflector headlamps giving an aggressive aura, blazing with brighter illumination for increased visibility during night driving. Its rear combination lamp now presents a chic and fashionable appearance. The sporty six-hole design radiator grille has a distinct characteristic for that rugged and strong bearing. Other outstanding highlights include a trendy two-piece bumper and an eye-catching 15-inch new design alloy wheel.

Through the years, Isuzu has gained the reputation as a manufacturer of vehicles with unmatched engine power and winning looks. The top-of-the-line Sportivo is being paraded as the one that will define the future of SUVs in the country.

With a "little of everything," the Sportivo offers distinct new features such as the bucket seats for driver and passenger, lever-type handbrake handle, center console with integrated cupholders, DVD entertainment system and front facing third-row seat—making the Sportivo another innovation in the Philippine automotive industry.

The 2005 Crosswind variants are still equipped with Isuzu's powerful, efficient and environment-friendly 2.5L 4-cylinder OHV 4JA1 diesel engine. Also, a feature that can only be found in the luxury vehicles—chrome side view mirror with LED (Light Emitting Diode)—is available in the Sportivo, the XUVi and the XUV plus a sleek, newly designed spare tire cover.

The Sportivo is priced at P1,085,000 for the automatic transmission (A/T) and P1,020,000 for the manual transmission (M/T), the XUVi at P1,060,000 (A/T) and P995,000 (M/T), the XUV at P995,000 (A/T) and P940,000 (M/T), the XT at P790,000 (M/T); and XL at P720,000 (M/T).

QUOTE ME. Always, a new car is a joy to drive. If you don't drive, the ride is equally satisfying.

'I learned to drive . . .

From page C3

benders or total wrecks. He says that he used to be stopped by traffic policemen more often, for no apparent reason, when he was driving "slowly and meekly." But I blend in quite well now and consider myself a fully fledged Filipino driver. I know all the tricks.

By tricks, he obviously refers to the bad driving habits of Metro Manila such as driving on the wrong lane, not using the turn signal, counterflowing, loading and unloading passengers anywhere and cutting corners. "My wife used to advise me to be a 'defensive' driver," Ketcher says with a smile. "But if you are, it will take you hours to get anywhere. Sometimes it's better to be an 'offensive' driver" (Come to think of it, as in basketball, isn't offense the best defense?).

Alarmed

Ketcher married his girlfriend, Marisa Buhay, one year after he learned to drive. When his parents flew over to attend the wedding, his father was alarmed by the kind of driving he saw in Metro Manila. After all, the Ketchers come from the United Kingdom, where traffic regulations are strictly enforced 24/7 and road courtesy is practiced

more often than not.

Thus Jay Ketcher had to adjust to civilized driving when he went back to his hometown (Warwickshire in the Midlands) with Marisa for their honeymoon. They rented a car and drove to Scotland and Wales. He had to adjust not only to driving on the left side of the road, but also to "the fast roads. The roads there are much faster because they're in good condition."

Ketcher also had to adjust to the UK's driving customs, such as what the flashing of headlights means. Over there, when a driver flashes his headlights at you, he is signaling you to go ahead. Here, it means just the opposite.

In any case, the fact that Ketcher had no accidents while driving cross-country in the United Kingdom proves true the old saying that once you learn to drive in Manila, you can drive anywhere in the world.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy and the tallest guy in the NBA is Chinese. (Chris Rock)

(E-mail comments to asevil-la@inquirer.com.ph)

Rapide
AUTO SERVICE EXPERTS

DEC. 25% HOLIDAY SALE

BRAKES

25% OFF
ANY BRAKE SERVICE

LIFETIME WARRANTY
RAPIDE BRAKE PADS & SHOES
ARE WARRANTED FOR AS LONG
AS YOU OWN YOUR VEHICLE.

NOT APPLICABLE TO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

SHOCKS/STRUTS

25% OFF
SHOCKS/STRUTS

**1 YEAR WARRANTY ON
ALL SHOCKS/STRUTS.**

SUSPENSION

25% OFF
ANY SUSPENSION SERVICE

**6 MONTHS WARRANTY ON
ALL SUSPENSION PARTS.**

Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Only one (1) coupon per transaction will be honored. Offer not valid with any other sales promotion or discounts for the same service. Offer valid until December 31, 2004

AVAILABLE FOR FLEET ACCOUNTS & FRANCHISING.
CALL TEL. NOS. 899-1966 / 899-4472 OR 74.

We will meet or beat anybody's written estimate. Guaranteed!
HONDA DEALERS Rapide. www.rapide.com.ph

MOTORING

'I learned to drive in Manila'

LEARNING to drive in Metro Manila takes a lot of courage—more so if you are a foreigner. Look at Jay Ketcher, an Englishman now in his thirties who came here eight years ago to work as an IT consultant. Ketcher's story is unusual not only because he's a Brit, but also because he learned to drive in Manila sans any formal driving lessons at a driving school. And, to top it all, he endured all the travails of learning to drive in Manila with good cheer and a wry sense of humor.

At first, Ketcher was taking a taxi to go to work every day, but in March 1996 he decided to upgrade from commuting to driving. He bought a manual transmission Honda City and got a student's driving permit from the Land Transportation Office. Since he was living in Magallanes Village then, Ketcher practiced driving inside the village. Mastering the manual transmission took some time—he admits that although he would drive very slowly, the car often stalled and other drivers would yell at him.

Novice

These practice driving sessions must have

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



disconcerted Ketcher's Filipino girlfriend, for his future mother-in-law hired a driver for him until he would have gained enough driving skill and experience to venture outside the village. Fortunately or unfortunately, the hired driver was fresh from the province and was also a novice in driving Manila-style. One day, when they were in bumper-to-bumper traffic on an uphill portion of EDSA, the car rolled backward and hit the car behind. So that night, they switched roles: Ketcher took over the wheel and his driver became the passenger.

This arrangement worked just fine, Ketcher recalls, because the Land Transportation and Traffic Code (Republic Act 4136) requires student drivers, when driving, to be accompa-

nied by a duly licensed driver. It also accelerated Ketcher's learning curve so that after a few months of driving daily, he took the LTO exam and got his driver's license.

Even then, as a newly licensed motorist getting used to the turmoil of Metro Manila traffic, Ketcher drove slowly and carefully. "It's quite rough and can be ruthless out there on the road," he says candidly. "But I like to think of the driving here as ordered chaos. Somehow it works. Even though the rules disappear and there's a lot of traffic, everyone manages to get to where he's going."

Dings

He has had his share of minor traffic accidents such as dings and scrapes, but no fender

BLEARNED/ C2



JAY Ketcher, British by birth, considers himself "a fully fledged Filipino driver" after eight years of driving in Manila.

AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

XADO
(HA-DOE)

REVITALIZING GELS FOR GASOLINE AND DIESEL ENGINES
DOES YOUR ENGINE NEED:

- Better Performance
- Overhaul
- Longer Life
- Better Mileage
- Cleaner Emission
- Smoother Run

- Engine Power brought to 100%
- Increases Oil Pressure & Torque
- Decreases Oil Burn-Out loss
- Economical Repair (up to 70% savings) w/ NO Down Time and Disassembly
- Increases (up to 42.5%) & Equalizes Compression across all Cylinders
- Restores Geometry & Weight of worn parts
- Reduces Friction Coefficient up to 300 times
- Improves Mileage by 5 - 7%
- Reduces Fuel Consumption at Idle by as much as 30%
- Lower CO (up to 24%) and CH (up to 85%) Emission
- 10 Times decrease on Noise, Vibration and Harshness

XADO is NOT an oil additive! XADO does NOT change the characteristics or viscosity of the oil in any way. Oil initially delivers XADO to the moving parts of your engine. Heat and friction triggers a process which bonds the XADO with microscopic metal particles and shavings present in the oil and form a CERMET (ceramic / metal) layer that in turn bonds with the metal surfaces of the engine. (Filing in the micro-cracks caused by friction and wear, thus forming a surface far more durable, smoother, less susceptible to wear and produces far less heat and friction than metal parts. XADO CERMET surface has a Rockwell rating of 320 (metal = 90, diamond = 420) and will last a minimum of 100,000 to 150,000 kilometers. Patented in Australia, China, Germany, Russia, S. Africa & the USA.

REPAIR, RESTORE & PROTECT
YOUR METAL PARTS AND ALL CHASSIS WITH OIL: DILUTIONS

www.xado.com scotchtech_sales@scotchtech.com.ph

Now available at major auto accessory shops in GMA. Soon to be distributed nationwide.

Exclusively Distributed by:
SCOTCHTECH
2007 Bldg. 10th Floor, 10th Ave. Cor. Alameda St., Manila City 1000
Tel: 812-1111 / 812-1112 / 812-1113
Fax: 812-1114 / 812-1115 / 812-1116

SAVING 37% OFF!!

2004 FUELMAX CALL NOW!!!

Also Available:
BatteryMAX 22% OFF
(Electric Battery Max 12)
PowerMAX 45% OFF
(Electric water sprayer)
SoapMAX 28% OFF
Saves 90% of detergent used!
FishMAX 21% OFF
(Affects any types of fish)

1. Some discounts varying with
Qty. & on Cash Order only

MADE IN USA

Call: 813-7777 / 813-7778 / 813-7779 / 813-7780

WINDSHIELD

CRACK REPAIR U.S. Pat. Up to 100 Long. Guaranteed!

NOT REPLACEMENT! EMISSION CTR2
SALE ANALYZER 150T / OPACIMETER 215T

CALL NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
MANILA MIDWEST 240 Kalayaan Ave. Q.C.
Tel.: 976-6879 / 435-6391
Nor. 1 Rd. Bengon, Tungkang Road Tel.: 286-2975 / 286-0362
Km. 16 Aguinaldo Hwy. Tungkang Rd. Bacoar, Cavite
Tel. (044) 870-2464 Cell# 0977-5377001 R010-337-3787
Cell# 0970-3102154. Website: www.midwestauto.com
Bring this ad for P 50 OFF (except on Emission Test, Expiration date: 12/31/04)

DENSO

AUTHORIZED DIESEL CALIBRATION CENTER

EFI Diesel Fuel System developed by DENSO Corp. of JAPAN is now serviceable in the Philippines. Should you have problems with your diesel ride such as smoke belching, low power, high consumption, rough idling, hard starting, stalling and engine surge, call DENSO!

DENSO EFI calibration service is applicable to TOYOTA Diesel Vehicles.
All brands of mechanical fuel injection systems accepted.

Inquire at your nearest service center:

CROWN DIESEL	R.TESERV	RDH DIESEL
Masangkay Manila Westgate, Alabang	Banawe Q.C.	
244 0177/244 0178	771 1137	415 7701/732 2786

The new Nissan Patrol Intelligence, driven.



It can tell light from dark.
Sensors that automatically turn on your headlights when visibility gets low.

It knows stop from go.
An Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) for maximum stopping power.

It obliterates traffic.
In-dash stereo with CD/DVD Clarion VZX 648 that actually makes traffic something to look forward to.

It assures your comfort.
Plus, aluminum paneling that empowers the ride. And third, row seats that make room for more company.

It's smarter than you think.
The Nissan Patrol. It knows what you need. It knows what you want. It simply knows. Intelligence, driven.



Test drive the Patrol today!
Call or sign up at the dealer nearest you for an appointment.

PATROL

SHIFT_the future



Authorized print distributor by
Universal Motors Corporation
www.universalmotors.com.ph

METRO MANILA DEALERS: GORE AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES INC. (Manila) Tel. Nos. 810-0151 / 812-7638 / 818-4598 / 892-6217 • MANTRADE DEVELOPMENT CORP. (Manila) Tel. Nos. 843-9316 to 23 / 843-9011 / 812-7701 • NISSAN GALLERY-ORTIGAS Tel. Nos. 833-2645 / 835-5085 / 438-4538 • NISSAN NORTH EDSA Tel. Nos. 465-9950 / 530-5331 to 50 • NISSAN COMMONWEALTH, INC. Tel. Nos. 932-0428 / 932-4001 • BROADWAY MOTOR SALES, INC. Tel. Nos. 825-9061 to 64 / 400-1522 / 400-1020 / 400-2177 / 404-2439 • NISSAN WESTGATE (Alabang) Tel. Nos. 772-1826 / 775-0238 / 765-0239 / 775-0523 • LUZON DEALERS: NISSAN SOUTHWOODS Tel. Nos. 899-2400 to 02 / (045) 241-3040 / (045) 433-1883 to 84 • LESAM ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. Nos. (054) 472-9577 to 79 • WORLD CARS, INC. (Baliuag) Tel. Nos. (044) 786-0482 / 786-0191 / 673-1200 • NISSAN PAMPANGA Tel. Nos. (045) 961-5481, 961-5481 to 62 • ROYCE MOTOR CENTER, INC. (Cabanatuan City) Tel. Nos. (044) 463-7210 to 12 (Baliuag) Tel. Nos. (078) 862-8701 / 862-8707 (San Fernando) Tel. Nos. 045, 961-7773 to 74 • VISAYAS DEALERS: S & J MOTORS, INC. Tel. Nos. (033) 320-4051 to 54 • LOLO CAR CORPORATION (Iloilo City) Tel. Nos. (033) 320-2246 / 320-2084 • PDS MARKETING ENT., INC. Tel. Nos. (034) 435-1102 / 434-8051 to 52 / 434-8530 / 433-2907 / 433-0582 / 67 • NISSAN CEBU DISTRIBUTORS, INC. Tel. Nos. (032) 346-9422 to 25 / 345-0005 to 07 / 348-0350 / 345-1124 / 348-8430 to 31 / 346-1458 • MINDANAO DEALERS: NISSAN CAGAYAN DE ORO DISTRIBUTORS, INC. Tel. Nos. (0822) 732-672 / 733-444 / (085) 868-3558 • DAVAO UNICAR CORPORATION (Davao City) Tel. Nos. (082) 221-1914 / 19 / 18 / 227-0308 to 09 • DAVAO UNICAR CORPORATION (General Santos City) Tel. No. (083) 582-3228

3 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM

By Andre Palma

I AM reluctant to discuss the topic of Philippine motorsports because it is very dear to me. It is most difficult to comment on something one is very passionate about, as it either turns out skewed and biased or sentimental, bordering on sappy. This rant seems to be headed for the latter, as I am typing away with tissue box at an arm's length. The focus on rallying further muddles the situation, as this is the driving subculture I subscribe to, even now, just as a mere spectator speculating about its future.

COMMENTARY

My season and a half in the rallying gun will forever remain a fond chapter of my years as a driver, auto enthusiast and student of motoring. I have taken away many gifts from racing; new skills, friendships and, most important to myself, a sense of the history of automotive rally racing in the Philippines. Many afternoons were spent, over tarmac and soft

drinks and now coffee and satrisian, listening to several generations of rally drivers and co-drivers recount their tales, both tall and true, of our genesis and the eventual apex of the sport

There are many interpretations of the sport's Golden Age. Many point to the years of somewhat successful sorties abroad, when Filipinos campaigned toe to toe with WRG (World Rally Championship, the pinnacle of rallying in the world) caliber competition in the United States, China and Malaysia. Some optimists, including myself, look hopefully to the future, when younger, faster, better-equipped drivers can take their skills all the way to the WRG itself. The hope of this ideal seems bleak at best. Despite being the focal motorsport of the '70s and '80s, rallying in the Philippines is at one of its lowest points. The period, from 1999 to 2004, has seen the events dwindle in frequency, with this year seeing only a single multistage rally.

Who or what is to blame for this decline of a once burgeoning sport?

2 necessary evils

Money and media exposure are the two necessary evils of any motorsport. The successful juggling act between driver skill, competitive equipment and adequate logistics can only be performed when sufficient funds are available. Without a working and sustainable budget, efforts to race are often limited by the availability of personal funds and a motorsport team's check writer's patience. Sponsorship from companies seeking to get exposure from racing is the next logical and natural step, right? That's how it happens abroad, right? Sponsors ranging from tobacco conglomerates, feminine hygiene products to the US Army pay big money to be associated with some form of motorsport.

Locally, millions of pesos are spent by companies, both large and small, to advertise and sell their products in a dynamic

fashion. I'm sure that any number of these companies would line up around the block to associate themselves with the break neck, knife-edge of danger, often spectacular and sideways discipline of rallying. This would magically solve the problem of fund availability and send us on our way, Philippine flag in hand, to conquer the rallying world. Sadly this statement is far from the truth and completely ludicrous.

Association with a motorsport is one thing, but getting media value out of their peso spent is completely another issue altogether. Who is going to spend millions of pesos for a newspaper release of an event/race that was watched by a few hundred people?

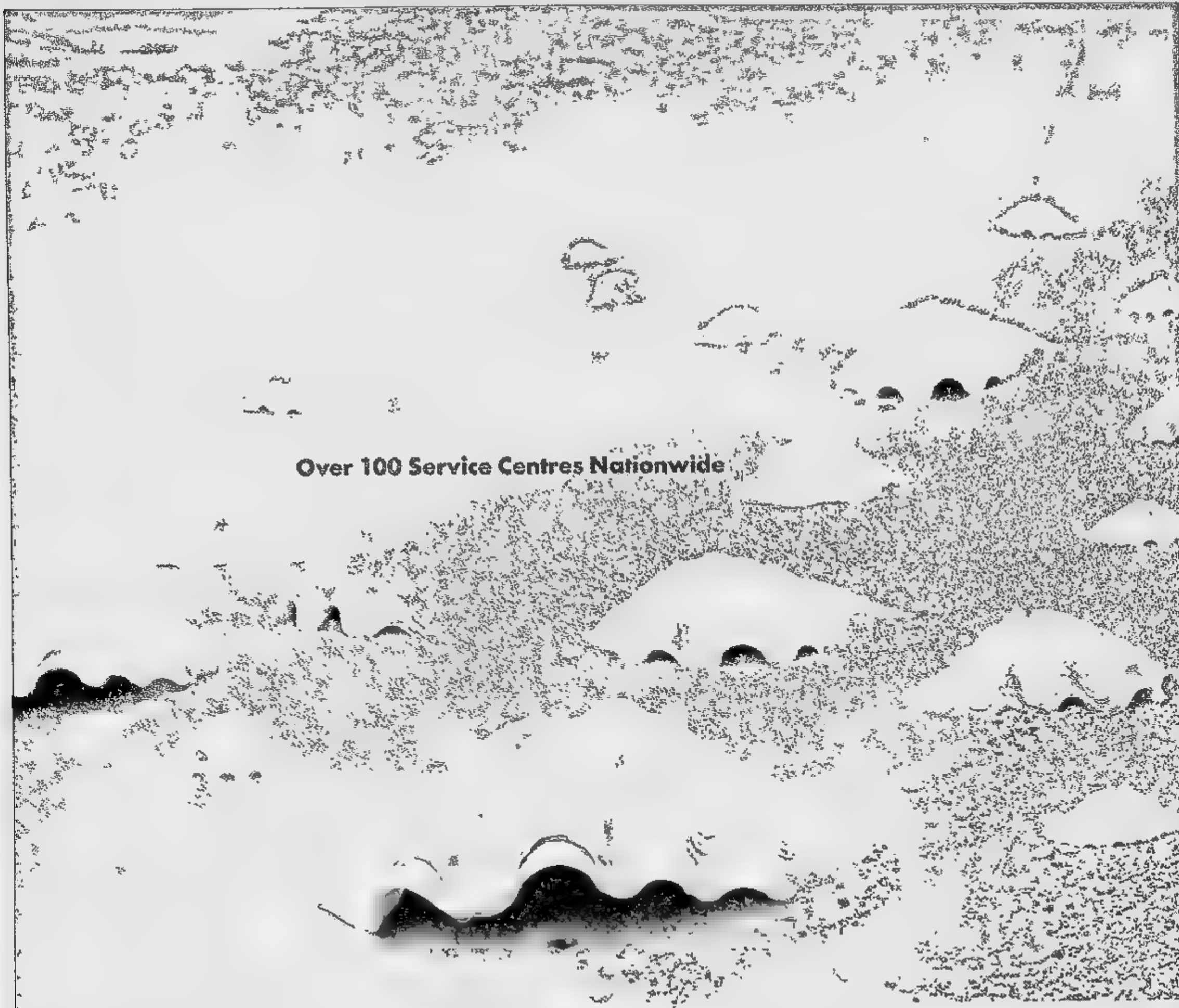
Media value

There has to be professionally delivered media value fairly commensurate to the sponsor's money spent. Until this happens, the existence of rallying is in question, as it is currently orphaned by both sponsors and public interest. A re-

sponsible and sustainable relationship must essentially be struck between the racers, organizers and public relations practitioners with the entire community of potential sponsors. A long-term mutually beneficial affiliation between these two groups will allow rallying to grow and prosper; once again allowing us to reach beyond our borders and succeed.

This is not an uncommon dream shared across the Philippine motorsport community. The other disciplines are well on their way in this endeavor. If we are to believe what we see in the media, some drivers and organizations are actually at the doorsteps of the world stage and therefore, closer to the ultimate goal of a Filipino world champion. My bacula goes off to those who have patiently passed on their craft, nurtured the talent of others and responsibly marshaled what limited resources are available. You guys know who you are. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.

E-mail the author at mons00n@yahoo.com.



Over 100 Service Centres Nationwide

Shell
HELIX Service Centre
EXPERT SERVICE

That's how convenient Shell Helix Service Centre is. Manned by highly-trained automotive professionals. Free 32 point performance check. Knowledgeable and expert service. Simply 100% total satisfaction.

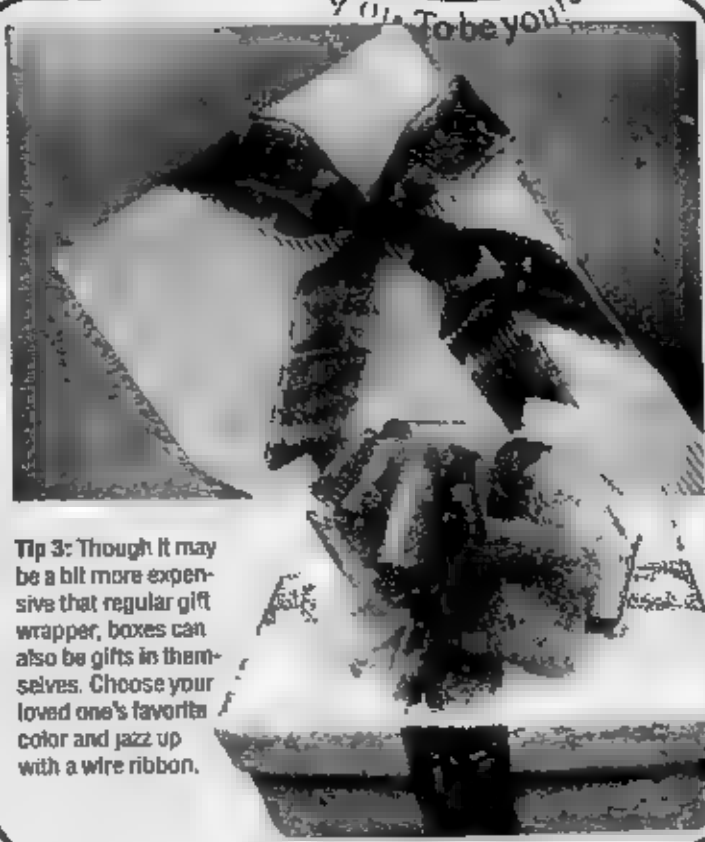


Shell Helix Service Centre outlet listing:

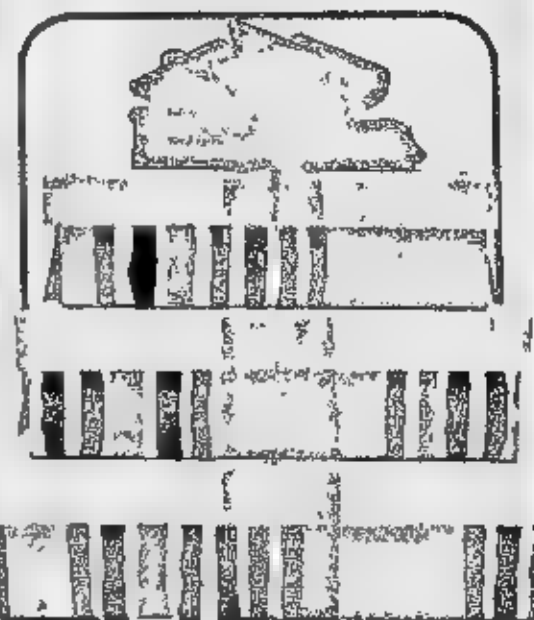
Heli Mex Service Centre outlast listing:
LUZON NUEVA ECUIA • Maharlika Hi-way, Brgy. Sumacab, Cabanatuan City • Talavera, Nueva Ecija • LA UNION • Sevilla National Hi-way San Fernando, La Union • OLONGAPO • 2656 V. Rizal Ave., EBB, Olongapo City
 • NAGA CITY • Magaysay Ave., Cor. Dayangyang St. Naga City • BULACAN • DRT Hi-way Sto. Cristo, Pullilan. • McArthur Hi-way, Malolos Bulacan • 234 Binan II Bazaar, Bulacan
 • QUEZON CITY • E. Rodriguez, cor. Judge Jimenez, Q.C. • Katipunan Ave. cor. Escaler St. Layola Heights, Q.C. • Congressional Ave., Brgy. Bohay Tara, Q.C. • Mindanao Ave. cor. MWSS Rd., Q.C.
 • A. Bonifacio, Balintawak, Q.C. • 20th ave. cor. P. Tuazon, Cubao, Q.C. • Q.B.E. West Avenue cor. Baler, Q.C. • Ipo Road, Novaliches, Q.C. • Visayas Avenue, Proj. 6, Q.C.
 • Mindanao Ave., Q.C. • 30 Camani Center Compound, R. Magaysay, Congressional Ave., Q.C. • 207 Gen. Luis St., Novaliches, Q.C. • 847 Quirino Hi-way, Gulad, Novaliches, Q.C. • 1081 Quirino Hi-way, Kaligayahan.
 Novaliches, Q.C. • 1015 EDSA cor. Bansalanga St., Proj. 7, Q.C. • Retiro cor. D. Tuazon, Q.C. • Aroneta Ave. cor. Landangun St., Q.C. • Don Mariano Marcos Ave., Don Antonio, Q.C. • I-1 B-1 Commonwealth Ave., Brgy.
 Holy Spirit, Diliman, Q.C. • Katipunan Rd., cor. 1st St., St. Ignacius Village, Q.C. • Regalado Ave., Greaser Ingra, Q.C. • 110 Kamias Rd. cor. Kasing Kasing, Diliman, Q.C. • Kalyaan Ave., Q.C. • Kalyaan Ave., cor.
 Makataraungan St., Q.C. • Common wealth, Diliman, U.P. Site, Q.C. • Roosevelt Ave., cor. Baler St., SFOM, Q.C. • MARKINA CITY • A. Tuazon Ave., San Roque, Markina • J.P. Rizal cor. Spain St., Concepcion, Markina
 • CAINITA • Felix Ave., Ca. nita, Rizal • Marcos Hi-way, Mayamal, Camila Rizal • PASIG CITY • C. Raymond Ave., Canigom, Pasig • Pasig Blvd. Bagong Ilog, Pasig • Along C5 Road cor. Julio Vargas St. Pasig City
 • VALENZUELA CITY • 230 McArthur Hi-way, Karubatan, Valenzuela City • MALABON • 705 Gov. Pascual Ave., Bgy. Potrero, Malabon • CALOOCAN CITY • C-4 Dagat-Dagalan Avenue, Caloocan City
 • MANILA CITY • 2340 Tati Avenue cor. Dagupan St., Malate, Manila • 60 Rizal Ave., Extn., 2nd Ave., Caloocan City, Metro Manila • U.N. Ave., cor. Perez St., Poco, Manila • SAN JUAN • F. Blum, cor. Valenzuela St., San
 Juan • MAKATI CITY • Pasong Tama cor. Malo St., Vito Cruz, Makati • Pasong Tama cor. Herrera St., Makati City • J.P. Rizal Extn., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City • EDSA/McKinley, Forbes Park, Makati City • Magallanes Village,
 South Super Hi-way, Makati City • MANDALUYONG • Shaw Blvd. Cor. Mabini Bld., Mandaluyong City • 131 San Francisco St., Plainview, Mandaluyong City • TAGUIG • Bonifacio Centre, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
 • DBP Ave., FTI Complex, Taguig • LAS PIÑAS CITY • CAA Rd., Pulang Lupa II Las Piñas • Naga Rd., cor. DBP Subd. Road, Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas • PARANAQUE CITY • West Service Rd. Brgy. Sun Valley, Paranaque City
 • Davao City • Better Living, Paranaque City • Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Paranaque City • Sucat Rd., Paranaque City • MUNTINLUPA CITY • South Luzon Tollway Putatan • Old National Hi-way, Tunasan, Muntinlupa
 • Old National Hi-way, Alabang, Muntinlupa City • San Kati, Cor. K21, West Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa • ANTIPOLO • National Road, Barangay Paragan, Antipolo, Rizal • Marcos Hi-way, Mayamal, Antipolo, Rizal
 • CAVITE • Aguinaldo Hi-way, Anabu 2, Imus, Cavite • Barrio Bangkal, Carmona, Cavite • LAGUNA • Bacnotan drive, Brgy. Real Calamba Laguna • Paciano Rizal, Calamba Laguna • Brgy. Nueva, Nati Hi-way, San Pedro,
 Laguna • Bgy. Don Jose, Silang Rd., Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Pulo-Diezmo Road, Cubayao, Laguna • Naili Hi-way, Sta. Neria, Biñan, Laguna • Naili Hi-way, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Northbound SLT barno Sta. Tomas, Biñan, Laguna
 • BATANGAS • Kamunting, Ilaya, Batangas City • Ayala Hi-way, Brgy. Balintawak, Ipo City, Batangas • PAMPANGA • Olongapo-Gapan Hi-way, Dolores, San Fdo., Pampanga • McArthur Hi-way, Puang Bulo, Angeles
 City, Pampanga • McArthur Hi-way, San Vicente, Apollin, Pampanga • Bulibago, Angeles, Pampanga • PANGASINAN • Taparac Dubi, Dagupan City, Pangasinan • San Miguel, Calatagan, Pangasinan • VISAYAS • CEBU • Duterio
 St., Banawa, Cebu City • Nati Hi-way, Basak, Mandaua City, Cebu • Quezon Hi-way, Pusok, Lapu-Lapu City • Bulacosa, Talisay Cebu • Basak, Pardo, Cebu City • A.C. Cortes Ave. Mandoua Cebu • Fortuna St., Bantud,
 Mandoua Cebu • South Expressway, N. Bacalso Ave., Cebu City, Cebu • Cang. Artemio Mals Ave., Tacloban City, Leyte • BACOIOD • Mandalagan, Bacoiod City, Negros Occidental • Libertad Extn, Bacoiod City, Negros
 Occidental • ILOILO • MY Hechanova, Joro, Iloilo City • DUMAGUETE • Agan-on Sibulan, Negros Oriental • MINDANAO • DAVAO • McArthur Hi-way, Matina, Davao City • J.P. Laurel Ave., Bayada Davao City, Davao del Sur • Ecokind, Sandawa
 Blvd., Ecokind, Davao City, Davao del Sur • Cor. San Pedro Village, Bukangan, Davao City, Davao del Sur • McArthur Hi-way, Matina, Davao City • J.P. Laurel Ave., Bayada Davao City, Davao del Sur • Ecokind, Sandawa
 Plaza, Davao City • J.P. Laurel Ave., Ba. San Roque, Davao City • CAGAYAN DE ORO • Nati Hi-way, Gusa, Cagayan De Oro City, Misamis Oriental • NHA Hi-way, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City • NHA Hi-way,
 Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City • Umkelkai Drive, Umkelkai Center, Lapanan, Cagayan de Oro City • Airport Rd., Xavier Estates, Cagayan de Oro City • IUGAN • Mahayahan, Iligan City, Lanao Del Norte • Tibangan
 Hi-way, Iligan City, Lanao Del Norte • ZAMBOANGA • Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City, Zamboanga • SOUTH COTABATO • National Hi-way, Gen. Santos City, South Cotabato

Tip 1: Instead of letting them gather dust along with all your bodega junk, bring life to old Christmas decor by using them to tie up Christmas bundles.

Tip 2: Broaden your wrapping horizons by using other fibers instead of the usual paper wrapper. Local alimay cloth was used to wrap this gift. There are others to try: metallic paper, plastic wraps, papel de hapon, even newspapers. A little creativity is all you need.



Tip 3: Though it may be a bit more expensive than regular gift wrapper, boxes can also be gifts in themselves. Choose your loved one's favorite color and jazz up with a wire ribbon.



Tip 3: Stacked boxes topped with nice flower bows are visually appealing and a sure way to make that lucky receiver giddy with excitement.

It's a wrap!

Text and Photos
by Zee Castro

Wrap it Up offers tips to help you create fantastic Christmas presents

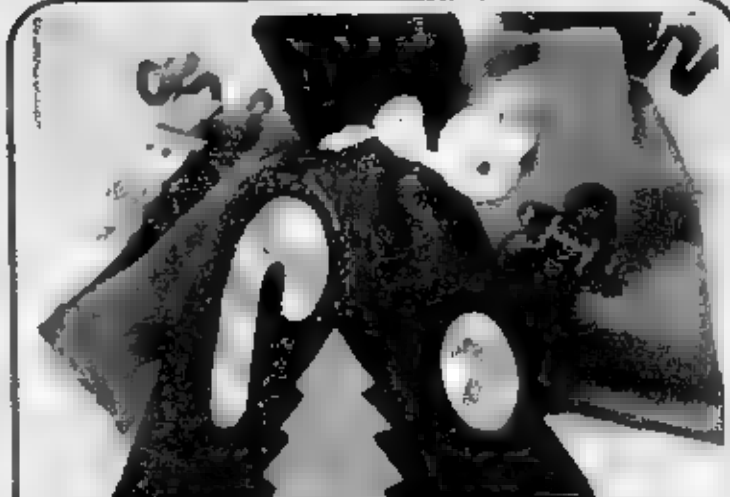
E-mail the author at zeeastro@yahoo.com.



Tip 4: Experiment with different ribbon styles. This flower bow on top of an abaca rope box looks pretty and elegant.



Tip 5: If you want to stay true to the season's theme but don't want to go overboard, mix Christmas-y ribbons and accents with a regular wrapper. The Gingerman ribbon and enhancer are a great contrast to the green striped wrapped box.



Tip 6: Use Christmas pouches to wrap treats for the kids. Come Christmas get-together, make those *makulit* children settle down a bit by giving them these gaily-wrapped goodies.

Yuletide Picks

Santa must've come in early this year. Check out these great stocking fillers for the holiday season.

Careline Compact Mini Face Powder

Only Rudolph should have a red nose this Christmas. Avoid uneven skin with Careline Compact Mini Face Powder. P40.00

Careline Extra Shine Lip Shimmer

This year, everyone expects a little extra something. Give your lips some extra shine with Careline Extra Shine Lip Shimmer. P40.00

Careline Wet Lips

Christmas lights shouldn't be the only things looking dazzling. Use Careline Wet Lips over lipstick or alone to create luscious looking lips. P40.00

Careline Party Colours

'Tis the season to go party! Use Careline Party Colours on your nails for your endless string of Christmas shindigs. P24.00

Careline Eyeshadow Powder

Great gifts come in smaller packages. Careline Eyeshadow Powder will make great presents for eyeshadow fanatics. They come in 10 colors perfect for the holiday season. Or hey, just keep them for yourself. P48.00

Careline Eyeshadow Powder & Lip Gloss

On the 12th day of Christmas, Santa gave to me: Careline Eyeshadow Powder & Lip Gloss. The powders and glosses come in 10 different hues. P125.00

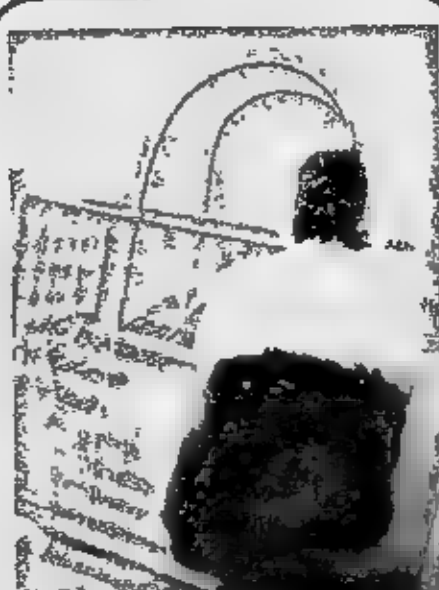
Careline Juicy Fruit Gloss

If you saw mommy kissing Santa Claus, then she must've been wearing Careline Juicy Fruit Gloss. They come in deliciously fruity, smack-tempting flavors. P40.00

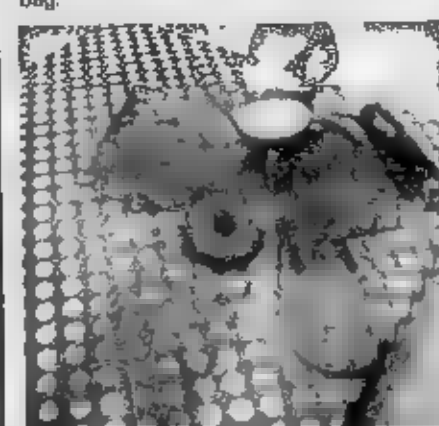


Tip 7: Use enhancers to make packages more appealing. This pompom puppy looks adorable.

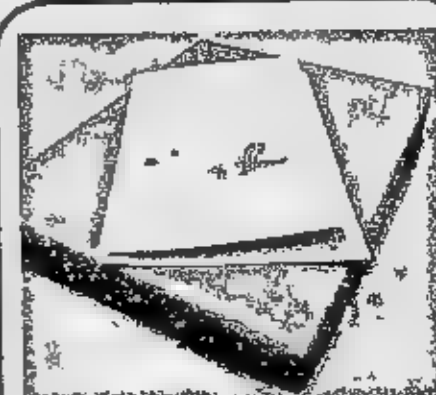
Tip 8: Gifts for children come best not in a box or a paper bag, but in wrapper that they can tear to bits. It's all part of the Christmas experience every kid (or kid-at-heart) should have.



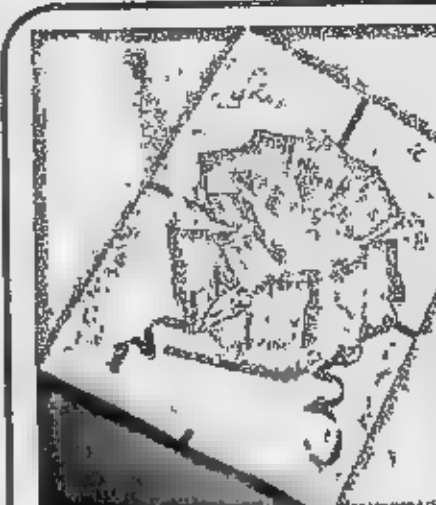
A Christmas sock hangs from a natural fiber bag.



Tip 11: You can substitute real candies for these enhancers. Make sure to put them just minutes before handing the gift over to the lucky receiver.



Tip 9: Greeting cards make great enhancers for presents, too.



For affordable and adorable gift-wrapping services, visit Wrap it Up at the newly opened Waltermart Makati (Passy Road corner Pasong Tamo), Waltermart Calamba, Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Waltermart Desmarillas, Pavilion Mall Biñan, or visit www.wrapitupstore.com. Call (049) 5457525 or 0918-307570 for franchise inquiries. E-mail barretto@wrapitupstore.com

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
To be you! To be you!

Be a part of our Christmas issue

WE invite you to tell
our readers about
your favorite holiday
memories.

Please feel free to
send in entries from
your journal, pages
from re. scrapbooks,
e-mail or text ex-
changes, pho-
tographs, poetry,
songs, essays, greet-
ing cards—anything
about Christmas.

It can be happy,
sad, exciting,
strange—anything
you want.

You can be vague or
you can zoom in on
one tiny de-
tail—maybe an essay
about the madness of
Christmas shopping
or about the first
Christmas Eve you
spent away from
home.

We want to read
about all kinds of
Christmas. We want
to laugh, we want to
cry, we want warm
and fuzzy feelings.

We want our read-
ers to identify with
your experiences.

And if you know
other people who
have stories to
share—tell them to
send their stories too.

The best entries
will be included in our
Christmas special.

Let us into your
world. Let's make this
Christmas one to be
remembered.

Please send your
submissions to
Ls 2bu@inquir-
er.com.ph by Dec. 17,
3 p.m.



Only
P 198.00

IMPORTED & DISTRIBUTED BY



WINE CELLAR, INC.

FORMERLY ANTHONY'S WINE CELLAR, INC.

Tel. 8941371 to 74 • Fax 8941378

email: info@anthonyswinecellar.com

AVAILABLE AT

Magnum • Cork • Boracay • Baguio • Cebu
Greenbelt 2 ABS-CBN 410 2415 ANTHONY'S JOE JO'S mart ANTHONY'S
7573860/81 Powerplant 894 8973 (036) 2845553 (074) 3041610 (832) 2324697

Also available in all leading supermarkets

NEW MediSense® Optium™

The Smart Blood Glucose Meter

PREMIUM PROMO PACK

Buy 3 boxes of MediSense Optium
Strips (By 50's) and avail of these
Brand New products (MediSense
Optium Meter, with Carrying Case
and Lancing Device) for FREE!

FREE!

LIMITED SUPPLY
ONLY!



TRUE
Measure
technology

The first clinically accurate
Blood Monitor that measures
Glucose and Ketone levels.

Blood Glucose Blood Ketone

Guaranteed lifetime warranty on MediSense Optium Meter.

ABBOTT
Diabetes Care

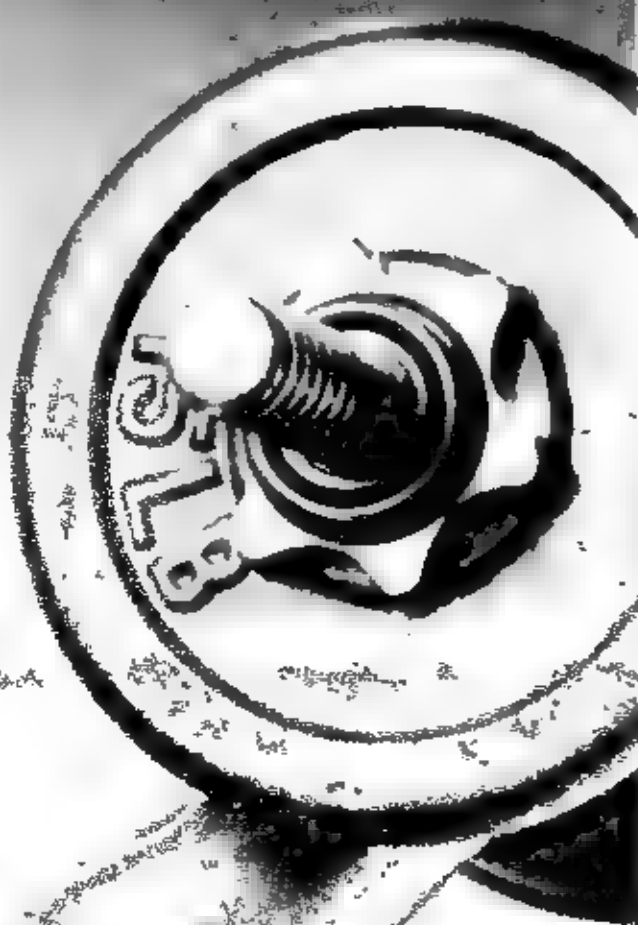
182 EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. (82-2) 635 0495 (Direct Line)
(82-2) 631 8471 to 87 local 495
Fax No. (82-2) 635 2143

Medical center trading corporation

Pasig City (82) Manila City (82) Cebu City (822) Davao City (842) Iloilo City (833) Lilo City (843) Pampanga (845) Pangasinan (875)
681-1715 711-8274 354-2367 222-4404 329-1415 757-2057 961-7892 848-7390

Available at all Branches Nationwide

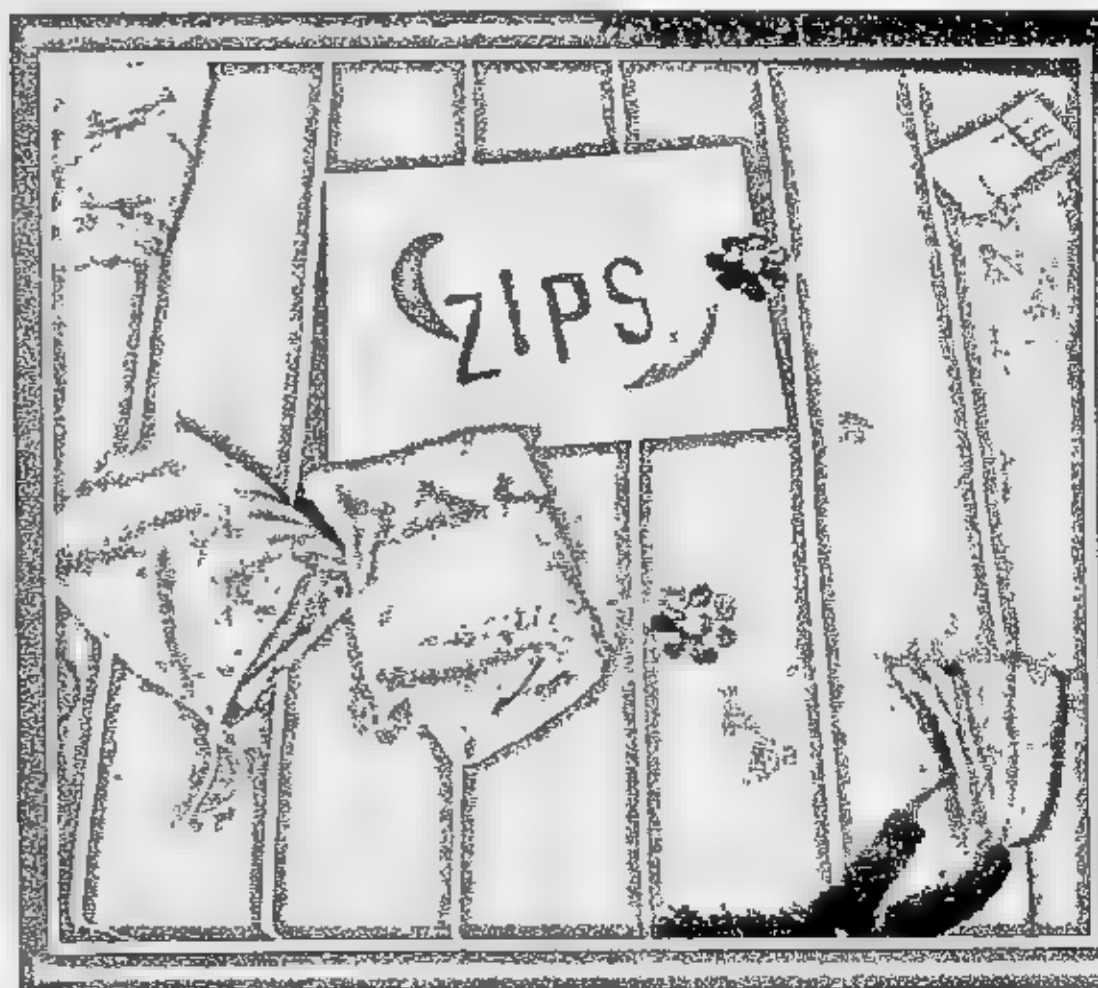
FITNESSENTIALS...



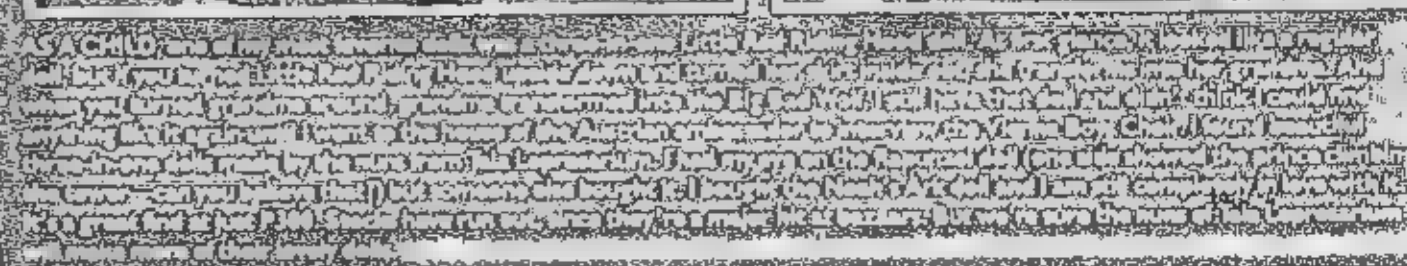
Non Fat
Milk

99

FOR CURVES AND TIGHT BODY



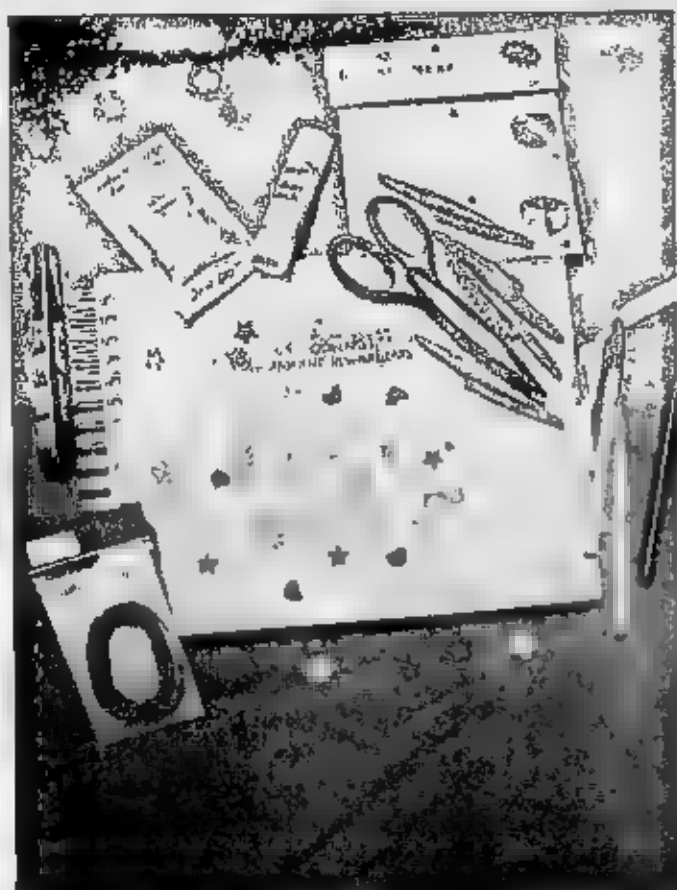
Smashing in Orises



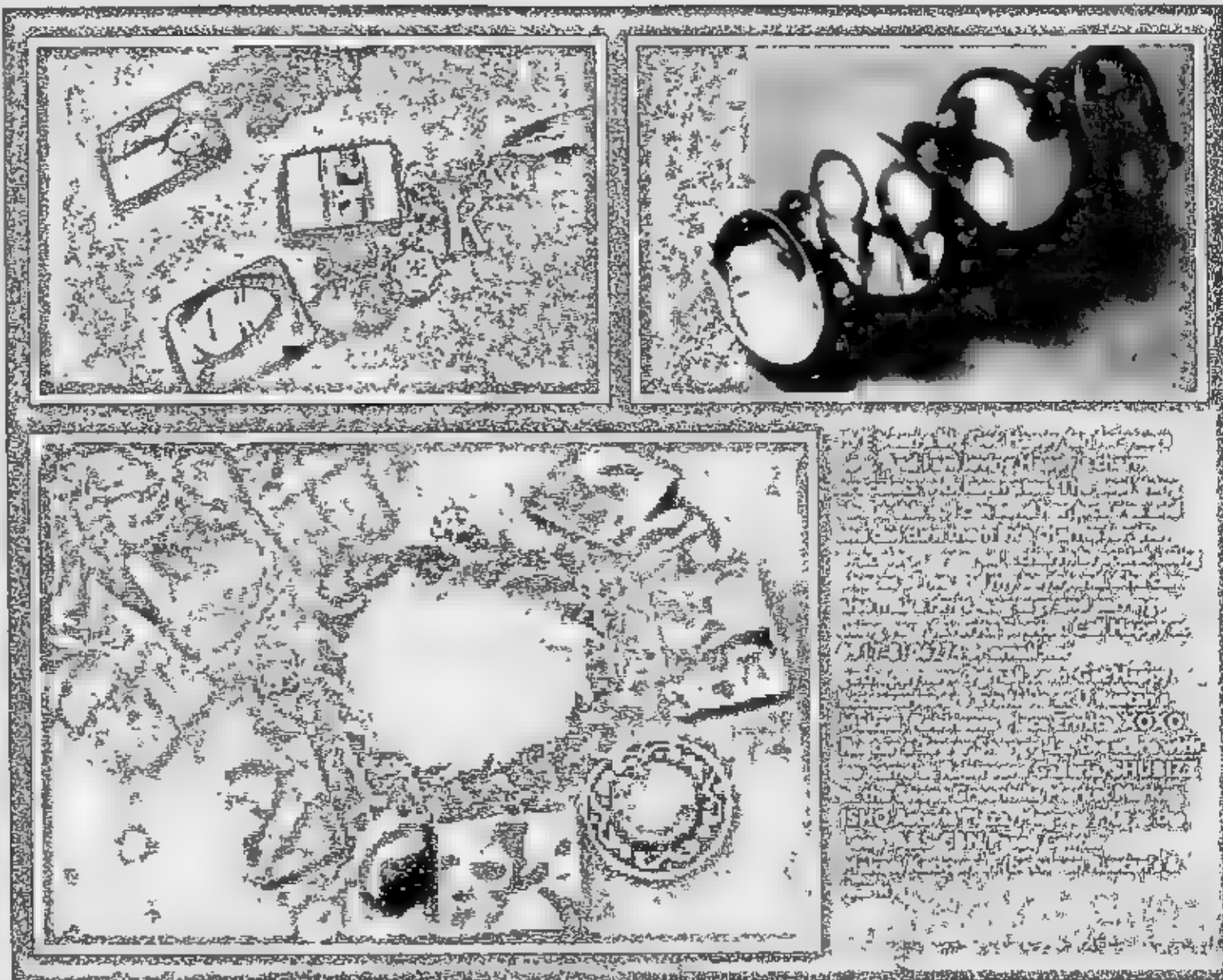
"Oh, just one more?" Emily asked.
 Samira started to panic.
 Her brother had married once about 10 years ago but had to
 quickly leave.
 "It would be such a shame if that last well-known child
 would be the only one to get a gift from Santa."
 Samira trembled and said:
 "But I can't do anything. I have to go to school."
 "You can't leave me alone!" Emily said.
 "Santa is always here."
 "I don't know," Samira said.
 She thought and then suddenly she decided to do something.
 "I'm sorry but I just can't remember!"
 Santa shouted and asked her what was out of her mind.
 "I don't think that I should just guess when he gives those
 toys to I might end up giving it to a naughty kid!"

THE STORYTELLERS had the great idea of offering, changing the names of the lead character, friends & offering, which is called "Santa Got Stuck," also can bear plays a role in the story). You can ask them to a recipient's name and you can also ask them to deliver storytellrs ltd@yahoo.com





I AM an advocate of scrapbook-making. I believe everyone should try it—if not for oneself, for someone else. Give the gift of creativity this Christmas by presenting a loved one with a scrapbook-making kit. Get a basic scrapbook (now available in different sizes) and throw in some colored pens, glue, glitter, beads, ribbons and other accessories. You can buy these things from National Book Store branches nationwide.



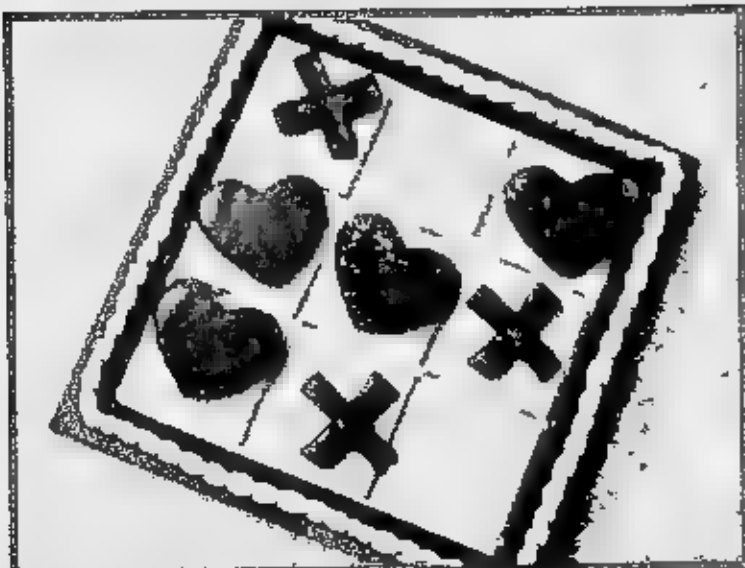
children's books that can be customized by your family in the story. Their special Christmas comes with a real teddy bear (because a teddy bear has the name of the lead character to the story). Call 0917-8114649 or e-mail



CDN Kids Rule#1: Real fun starts with real friends.



CDN KIDS
CANADIAN CLUB
 Denim Rules
 FOR KIDS



TIC TAC TOE gameboard. For the competitive, lovestruck and bored.



CHOCOLATES. These are yummy mood-uppers for lovers and the loveless alike.



BOX of love thoughts. A love quote a day keeps your heart merry and gay.



STUFFED TOY. Because hugging is therapeutic, especially when The One is out of hugging reach.

Romance in the nippy air

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

For hopeless romantics, Christmas time is just like Valentine's—a time for sharing, expressing and some good old lovin'. So have an early Valentine's this Christmas with these lovable gift items



JEWELRY. Flashy, special and precious, of course—like your love.



MESSAGE in a bottle. What could be more romantic in a grand, old-fashioned way?

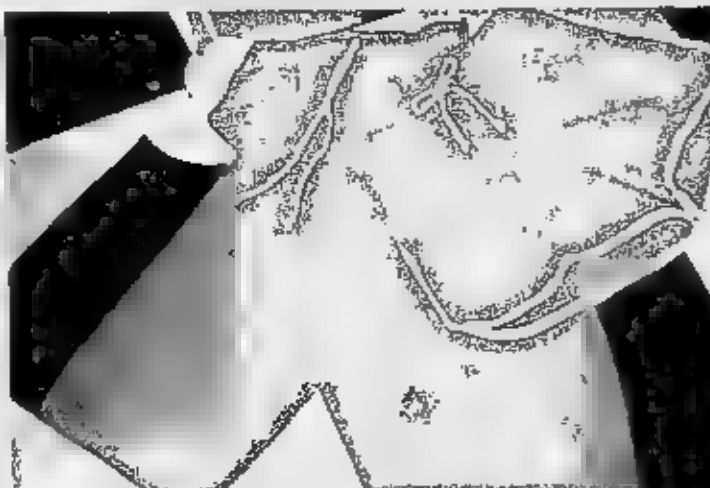
Have a pair-fect Christmas!

Text and photos by Marla Miniano
2bU! Correspondent

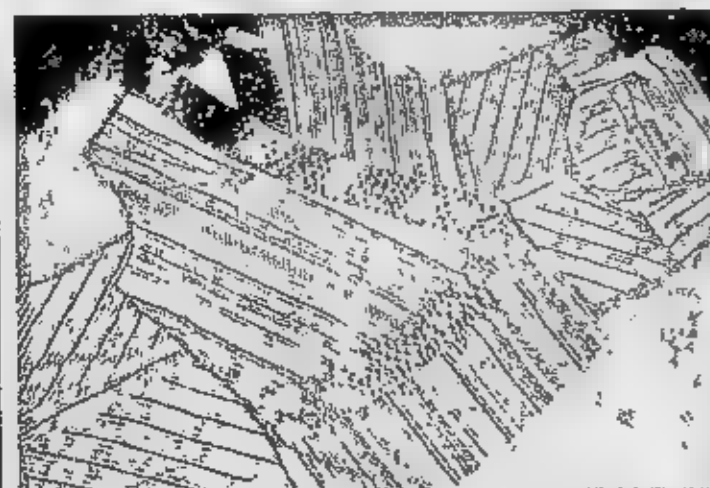
The couples in your life will love these matching gift sets



PICNIC lunch date. Portside apple green shirt (P299.75) and white cotton shorts (P89.75), Liberte white cap-sleeved shirt (P99.75) and plaid pleated mini (P299.75)



COZY UP. Portside red drawstring shorts (P189.75), Liberte red drawstring shorts (P169.75)



FROSTY-LICIOUS. Julia overlap blouse (P449.75), Portside blue and white striped polo (P399.75)



A.I. robot accessories (P500). These adorable creatures come in cool gift boxes. For orders, call 8997414 or e-mail irenepheda@artmbr.com.

GOOD boy, bad girl. Liberte jean jacket (P399.75), red and pink tank tops (P69.75 each), flirty white skirt (P349.75); Portside red preppy shirt (P199.75), straight-cut jeans (P449.75), trucker caps (P119.75 each)



BUBBLEGUM and cotton candy. Portside khaki pants (P349.75), Portside powder-blue polo (P399.75), Julia pink strapless dress (P449.75)



PEACHES 'n' cream. Portside peach striped polo (P399.75), Liberte peach striped blouse (P329.75)



Presents for people we love to hate

By Lisa M. Sobrevillas
and Mike C. Robles
2bUI Correspondents

IT'S easy to think of gifts for people we care for. But we seldom think of giving something to people who annoy us or make us sad or crazy. Here are some things we could get for those folks who get on our nerves without even trying.

For conceited people: a heliocentric diagram, complete with a scientific explanation that the sun is the center of the solar system, not him/her.

For people who think they are the world's best employee: a new boss, Donald Trump.

For people who think they're not capable of finding and keeping a job: the complete DVD set of "A Simple Life" (Seasons 1 and 2). Paris and Nicole will surely lift your self-esteem and hopes!

For Eddie Gill: a hair transplant so he can get rid of his hideous wigs.

For Erap: Bob Ong's Tagalog Novel, "A B N K K B S N P L A K o!"

For the Viva Hot Babes, Sex Bomb dancers and the like: a good education to keep them busy, so they'd have less time baring their skin and gyrating indecently in public.

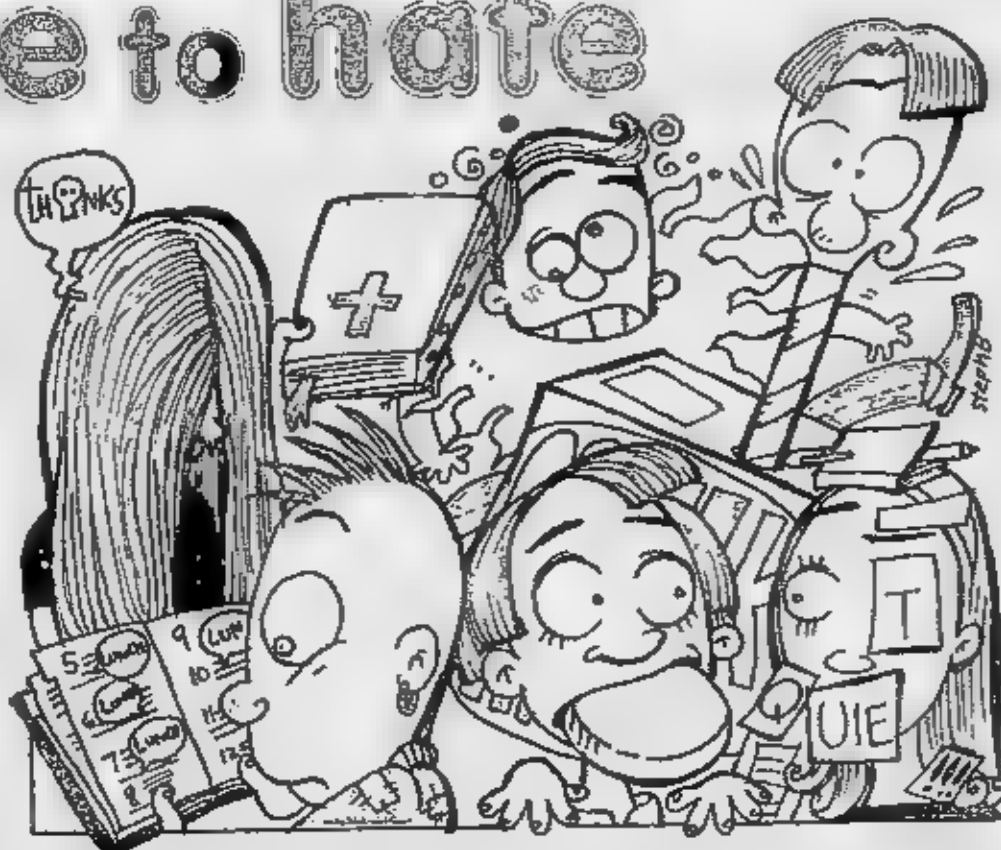
For all corrupt military and government officials: a DVD of the independent flick, "The Anarchist Cookbook."

For our traffic officers: a lifetime supply of face masks (or gas masks, if the government's budget can miraculously afford them). Also, a taeko instructional video so they can lose weight.

For people who answer calls and text inside the church, especially when Mass is ongoing: a cell phone that begs to be shut off as soon as Mass begins. Or a phone that shuts off automatically when it senses that the person holding it is 5 meters away from church. Or better yet, a conscience.

For people with funny-sounding names: permission to change their names legally so they may be spared ridicule.

For people who cheat on you: a CD with



Led Zeppelin's "Your Time's Gonna Come" repeating itself ad infinitum until all the 80 minutes run out.

For people who practice yellow journalism: a lifetime subscription to Time magazine and, of course, the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

For Kuya Germs and the cast and crew of "Master Showman": Valium. Go to bed, people. Mayroong tulagan! It is the way of things.

For people who always say "Let's go out and have coffee" or "Let's do lunch!" but never follow up: an organizer or a 2005 planner.

For people who borrow your car and return it with an empty gas tank: fuel-efficient vehicles like owner-type jeeps and other diesel engine vehicles.

For indecisive people: a Magic 8 Ball.

For people who drink milk straight from the carton: We will raid your refrigerators at midnight and replace the 1-liter milk cartons with milk in tetrapaks and straw!

For people who think they are cool but are actually borderline baduy: a full-length mirror and good fashion sense.

For people hung up on people who don't like them: the good sense to move on.

For people who think they know every-

thing: all volumes of the "Dummy's Guide To" Series.

For people who sneeze without covering their mouths: analgesic. An entire balik-bayan box full of it.

For people who always, always ask, "Pa-text, pwede?" or "Pwedeng makitawag?": A Sun Cellular prepaid card, never mind if it's hard to call at night.

For people who swear they love you, yet leave you without warning or explanation: forgiveness and sincere best wishes. Life is too short to be sad and bitter!

For people who watch movies they've already seen and then ruin it for everyone else by doing a blow-by-blow commentary: pens and Post-Its. Write the message instead of saying it for all to hear, okay?

For people who don't use the overpass and instead choose to risk their lives by crossing the highway: a neon jacket (especially useful at night!).

For cynical, depressed and extremely negative people: the Good Book. Or Bo Sanchez's books. If all else fails, incarceration in isolation so they cannot influence others who still have the zest to keep on living, loving and learning!

WHATTAMOUTH 2BU'S CHOICE AWARD

*Help create
the world's biggest
photo mosaic!*

EARLY this year, thousands of people puckered their lips and helped the country bag the Guinness World Record for most number of couples kissing simultaneously.

This time, Close-Up gives you another chance to become part of a world record. And there will be no kissing involved (unless you want to, of course). In January next year, Close-Up will attempt to break the record for the Largest Photo Mosaic. And because it'll be using 200,000 pictures to achieve that, it needs your photos.

Yes, your photos.

And since this is such a fun project, 2bUI decided to join in on the excitement by helping Close-Up collect your fab photos.

We want you to send us photos of your "great mouth moments." It can be funny, silly photos of you, your friends and your family. Get creative, have fun.

And to thank you for your efforts, the entries that will qualify will automatically be included in Close-Up's Largest Mosaic.

Eight weekly winners will also be chosen starting today until Jan. 7, 2005. Weekly winners will bring home a gift pack from Close-Up, a Canon Pixma IP1000 Printer and a pair of Converse Chuck Taylors or Converse Gift Certificates worth P2,000.

At the end of the promo, 2bUI will choose a grand prize winner from the eight weekly winners and that lucky reader will be awarded a Canon Powershot A400 digital camera and

P5,000 worth of gift certificates from Converse.

The mosaic will be unveiled nationwide on Jan. 29, 2005 and Close-Up will tell you exactly where your picture is located. All qualified entries received within the promo period will also be automatically entered in the Close-Up Whattamouth raffle draws where you can win great prizes like camera phones and P100,000. The grand prize winner will win P1,000,000.

There's no reason not to join. A camera—or even a million pesos—is just a snapshot away. How to join.

1. In an envelope, enclose the following:

a. A photo of your great mouth moment (any colored photo—at least 3x5—which captures you enjoying life with your mouth, such as laughing, singing, eating, kissing, etc.)

b. Proof of purchase of any of the following:

five new Close-Up sachets (any flavor)
two new Close-Up 25-ml cartons (any flavor)
one new Close-Up 50-ml, 100-ml or 150-ml carton

c. Your personal details—your name, address, contact numbers, age and signature

2. Outside the envelope, write the following:

a. 2bUI Whattamouth Promo

b. Your name, address and signature

3. Send entries to 2bUI, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Mascarido and Yague Sts., Makati City.

Special moments.



Business Meeting



Dinner Date



Weekend Get together

Special socks.



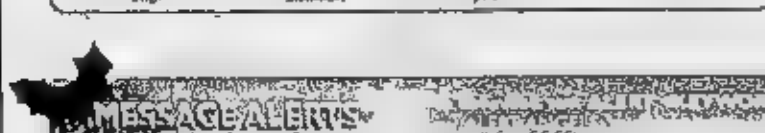
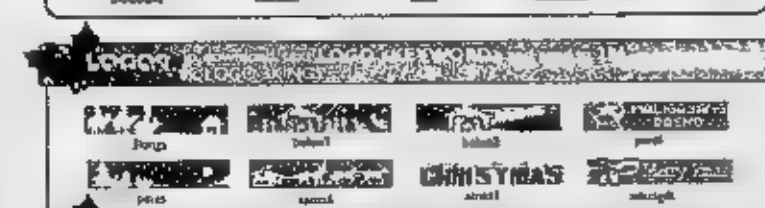
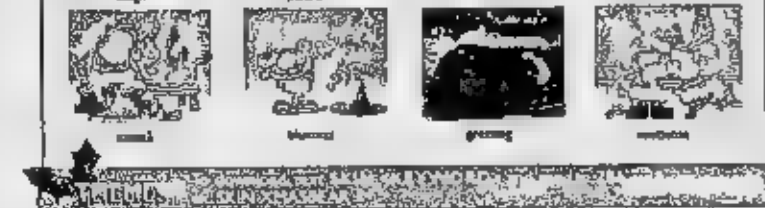
BALLY
DRESS SOCKS

It pays to own one.

Three decorative sleds are shown, each carrying a large number. The sled on the left carries the number 2, the middle sled carries the number 8, and the sled on the right carries the number 6. Each sled is decorated with small figures and holly leaves.



Jan 20 1513



ARTIST	TITLE	WING ID
South Border	Hark Tho Herald Angels Sing	10 778
Side A	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	101610
Mopidy	Lads Drummer Boy	10 747
Bartle's Cradle	Silent Night	10308
Berles	<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Night 1	

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Spot	Alycia Bailey	0 759
Spot	Cash Money Or Not	10 760
Portchop Duo	Acidonia	10 760
Portchop Duo	Caroling	101769
Giselle Sanchez	Bizya Christmas	0118
Giselle Sanchez	Blueooth	0182
JM Rodriguez	3 Hilo	0 817
JM Rodriguez	Ghost Of Xmas Past (Borego)	0 819
Tim Taya	Perfect Gift 1	0 830
Tim Taya	Striking Gobi	10 834

ARTIST	TITLE	RING
Arztstrong*	I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus	101976
Christmas Bauletta*	Silent Night	101377
Dika & K9*	Last Christmas	101978
Kizhlie Nadali*	Merry Christmas Darling	101979
Milva*	The Christmas Song	101980
Papio Samosa*	The Man Who Would Be Santa	101981
Pido*	On Christmas Morning	101982
Thara*	Take Christmas	101983
Jose Mari Chan	A Perfect Christmas	102024
Jose Mari Chan	A Wish On Christmas Night	102025
Jose Mari Chan	Christmas In Our Hearts	102027
Masculine	Lagao Ka (Fruits Mandao)	102031
Masculine	Marcho Na Si Santa	102033
Parolya Ni Edgar	Happy New Year	102038
Parolya Ni Edgar	Hosana Ngayang Pasio	102039
Parolya Ni Edgar	Maybe Someday	102041
Parolya Ni Edgar	Namamagising Po	102043
Parolya Ni Edgar	Paral Ni Edgar	102044
Parolya Ni Edgar	Tamao Si Santa Claus	102047
Christmas Bauletta	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	101742
Christmas Bauletta	O Holy Night	101745
Christmas Bauletta	Joy To The World	101749
Christmas Bauletta	Silent Night	101744

ARTIST	TITLE	RING #
Ateneo College Glee Club	Angels We Have Heard On High (Boomerbox Variation)	01732
Ateneo College Glee Club	Silent Night	01737
Ateneo College Glee Club	Away In A Manger	0173
Ateneo College Glee Club	Joy To The World	01735
Ateneo Chamber Singers	Hark The Herald Angels Sing	01724
Ateneo Chamber Singers	Angels We Have Heard On High	0 721
Ateneo Chamber Singers	Yis Wish You A Merry Christmas	0 729
Ateneo Chamber Singers	God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	0 723
UP Singing Ambassadors	Angels We Have Heard On High	0740
UP Singing Ambassadors	Adeste Fideles	0174

TITLE	RING
Happy New Year 2005 Mix	101782
Christmas B1 Mix	10178
Sleigh Bells 2 Jingle Mix	10 784
Sleigh Bells Santa Mix	10 793
Snow Chant	030 \$

*For WAY compatible phones only
including Nokia: 76 0, 7650, 6600, 3650
Ericsson: P900, P900 & SMART Amazing Phone

TITLE	KEYWORD
Twelve Days Of Christmas	12 DAYS
Jingle Bells	BELLE
Deck The Halls	DECK
We Wish You A Merry Christmas	MERRY
Angels We Have Heard On High	ANGELS

MMS / Screensavers / Logos / Pics / Ringtones / Message Alerts - P15
 Caller Ringtones: *WARNER ALL-STAR OPM X'MAS P43
 Other ALL-STAR OPM X'MAS RINGTONES - P38
 ALL-STAR X'MAS - P45; all others - P38
 All Caller Ringtones valid for 60 days.
 SVR rate - appropriate airtime charges will apply

For questions, comments or concerns, you may call SMART Machine at 888-1117, call 1888 from your cell phone (toll-free), send a text message to 888 (p.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at comments@smart.com, or visit the SMART Wireless Cover nearest you.

Just text **RING GIFT** <ring ID> <friend's cellphone #> to 286
(ex. RING GIFT 101806 09208140940)
*Gifts will be charged to sender

XMAS CALENDAR LOGO
Subscribe and receive daily Xmas Calendar logos, Text **PASKO ON** to 286.
P1.50/day

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

Powered by:

#WOLFPAC





LIFE STYLE



Leather wallets

Every time I walk into Marion Godart, I always get fixated with these wallets. With their personalized vintage chic designs, they give plain leather wallets a funky twist that spells c-l-a-s-s. (P1,350, Marion Godart, Independent Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall)

PHOTOS BY CHERYL TIU



Lace Bags

These purses are compact yet spacious enough to carry your valuables. Their lace design and beaded handles are Victorian-reminiscent and make a gorgeous display on your wrist. (P1,350, Marion Godart, Independent Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall)



Oriental side-table clocks

Apart from telling time, these timepieces bring in flavors of the Orient to your home. (P950, Home and Beyond, Power Plant Mall)



Coffee, tea and mug

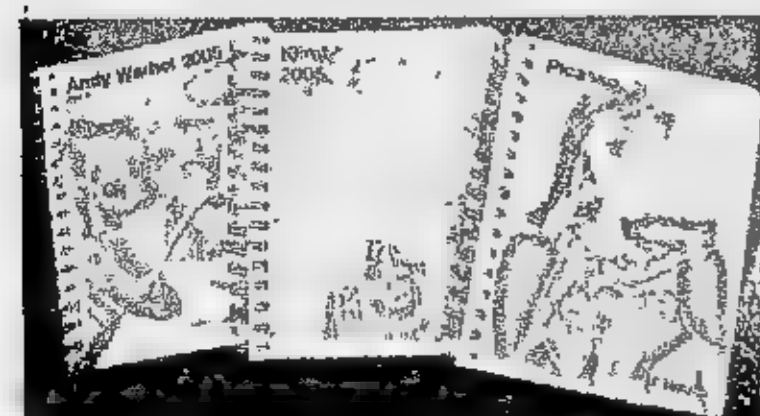
Perfect for those who need to be pampered on those groggy kitchen table mornings: the Moroccan mint is soothing to the senses, the house blend reeks only of 100-percent Arabica quality coffee and the mug is there to make the experience even more rejuvenating. (Moroccan Mint Tea, P399 for 3.5 oz; house blend; and coffee mug available at Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf at Greenbelt 3, Eastwood City Walk, Alabang Town Center, Gateway Mall, Tomas Morato)

10 FUNKY/E2

funky finds

Compiled by Cheryl Tiu, 2bU! Correspondent

Take your pick of funky notebooks, gorgeous bags, arresting wall clocks and wallets in psychedelic colors



Te Neues planners

Apart from helping me keep track of my crazy schedule, these hardbound planners showcase picturesque collections from some of the world's most brilliant artists. The years 2002 and 2003 had me strapped to Andy Warhol, 2004 was my prime with my favorite painter Gustav Klimt and I've already reserved the whole year of 2005 for Pablo Picasso. (P699, on a 30-percent discount this December, Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall)



Wine bottle accessories

My friend got me one of these cheongsam bottle dresses as a pasalubong from Singapore. Their delicate Oriental piping and trimmings can adorn your tables while redefining the purpose of an old discarded bottle. (P195, Home and Beyond, Power Plant Mall)



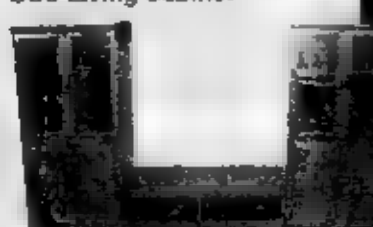
Ink hardbound notebooks

These notebooks are perfect for scribbling down notes, keeping journals—anything that entails a means for pen and paper to meet. Their cover designs are so pretty that you just want to write on them all day. (P150, call 0922-5235238)

cheap/chic

CO3 Living Cabinet

Before
P20,450.00
30% Off
Now
P14,315.00



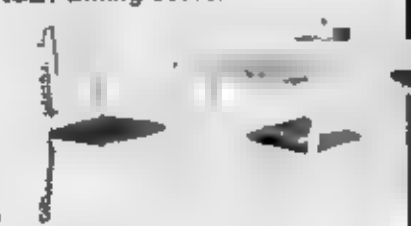
HELENE Sofa Set

Before
P35,370.00
Now
P28,296.00



TARGET Dining Set for 4

Before
P10,250.00
40% Off
Now
P6,150.00



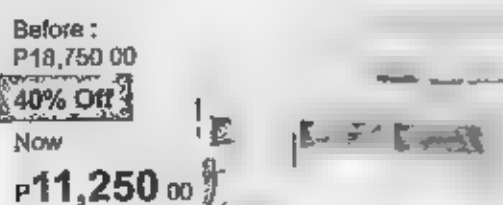
LUNA Queen Size Bed*

Before
P19,160.00
Now
P11,496.00



MEDINNA Queen Size Bed*

Before
P18,750.00
40% Off
Now
P11,250.00



A01-03-08-13B1 Entertainment Center*

Before
P56,250.00
40% Off
Now
P33,750.00



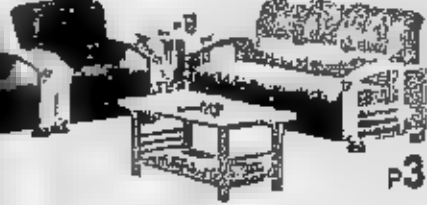
YBABELLE Sofa Set*

Before
P52,250.00
30% Off
Now
P36,575.00



CARENTAN Sofa Set

Before
P50,000.00
40% Off
Now
P35,997.00



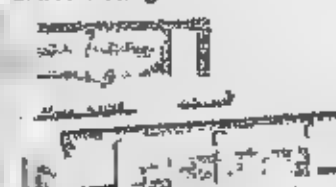
BTRA Queen Size Bed*

Before
P11,200.00
40% Off
Now
P7,200.00



LARGO King Size Bed*

Before
P23,900.00
20% Off
Now
P19,120.00



*mattress & accessories not included

Luxurious living
has never been
so practical

MORE ITEMS
AVAILABLE
AT
DISCOUNTED
PRICE

Discount applies to
cash purchases only.

promo period

Nov. 27 to Dec. 31, 2004.

Per DTI-NCR Form
No. 2051 Series of 2004

- Basement Level, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal Tel # 681-0411
- P. Tuazon St., Cubao, Quezon City Tel # 437-6770
- 3rd Level, Target Mall, Sta. Rosa Laguna Tel # 699-2319
- ALC Gold Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City Tel # 637-6420

- Level 6, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City Tel # 634-2773, 633-2394
- Level 4, Home Buddies, Glorietta 4, Makati City Tel # 815-6663
- Level 3, Festival Supermall, Muntinlupa City Tel # 771-0355
- C.M. Recto, Manila (Inside Western Marketing) Tel # 711-5663

LIFESTYLE

FINE FURNITURE

From me to me

Text and photos by Bianca Consunji
2bUI Correspondent

REWARDING yourself for a job well done is not being self-indulgent. After all, you give to everyone else, from mom and dad to *kuya*, *ate*, friends, batchmates, officemates, even the guards, *basureros* and utility men in your village.

So here are great enticements, from cheap thrills to splurges, that you can gift yourself with.



A BLACK shirt made funky with fabric flowers and 2bUI logo in sequins, The Store With No Name

Personalized clothing

Set yourself apart from everyone else with a personalized item, such as a jacket, shirt or bag. Have your name or personal statement embazoned in sequins, beads or fabric paint. The Store With No Name in Robinson's Galleria has in-house stylists who can help liven up that plain white shirt. If you'd rather do it yourself, they also have personalizing kits that contain sequin brooches, beads, needles and thread.

Shu Uemura Oriental Glow makeup palette

With four eyeshadows (pearl pink, pearl blue, metallic gold and iridescent blue), peachy-orange blush and colorless compact powder, the Oriental Glow palette is the must-have makeup for the holidays. Still thinking it over? Two words: limited edition.

Tickets

Christmastime brings all the good shows to town. Splurge on a couple of tickets to the ballet, a concert or a play. The CCP always has great shows at this time of year. There's nothing like a concert to get you into the Yuletide mood. If you want to be a kid for a day, check out "Disney on Ice" at the Araneta Coliseum, or everyone's favorite mainstay, Enchanted Kingdom.

Swatch Bunnysutra watch

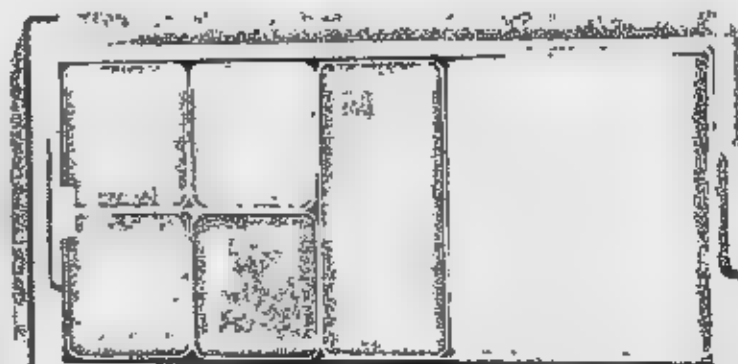
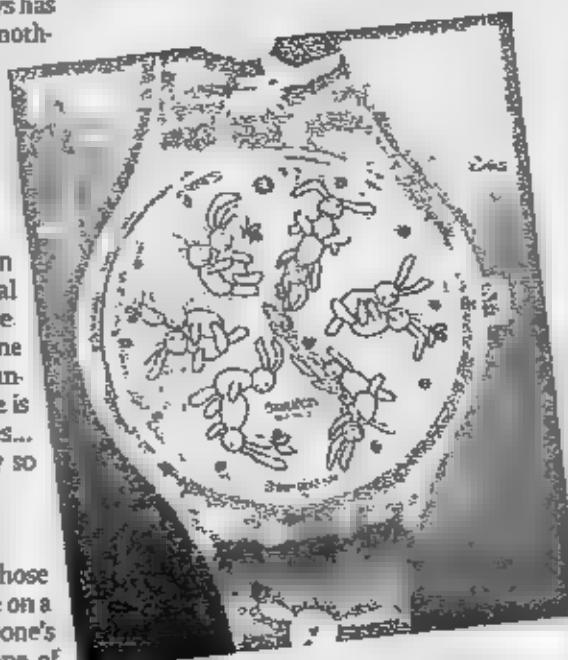
Swatch watches have always been great gifts because they're cute, practical and wholesome. Well, not anymore. While the rainbow-drenched Flak Flak line is a bestseller, the Bunnysutra watch is interesting because of the detail—the face is decorated with cute little pink bunnies... uh, doing what makes rabbits multiply so quickly.

5. A gorgeous party dress

Dress for the holidays and put off those jeans and tank tops for summer. Splurge on a beautiful party dress that'll make everyone's jaw drop. This confidence booster is one of the best gifts you can give yourself.



SILVERY-GRAY cocktail dress, P2,995, Karimadon



SHU Uemura Oriental Glow palette

THINK of it as a great conversation piece: the Swatch Bunnysutra

ENCHANTED Kingdom tickets



Experience Freedom with ASUS

ASUS
NOTEBOOK PCs
www.asus.com



- Built-in microphone/camera for instant communication
- Instant-On Music Centre
- Large yet Light
- Performance on the go

AT3

Changing the Way You Communicate

Intel® Centrino™ at 1.5 GHz • 256 MB DDR RAM • 40 GB Hard Disk Drive • 14" TFT Active LCD Display • Embedded Intel 855 GM VGA • Combo Drive • Intel PRO-Wireless 2100 LAN 802.11 bg • Windows XP (Home Edition) • Smart Card Reader • ASUS Power4 Gear Technology • Built-in Web Cam • Built-in Mic • Audio DJ • 2.5 kgs.

Php 85,000 at **Php 7,083/month***



• Intel® Centrino™ Dohern 2 MB cache at 1.5 GHz
• 256 MB Memory • 40 GB Hard Disk Drive • 12.1" TFT Active LCD • 3 USB Ports • LAN/Modem
• Embedded Intel 855 GME internal GFX • External Slim DVD/CD-RW Combo • USB 1.44 Floppy Disk Drive • PCMCIA 2.1 • ASUS Power4 Gear Technology
• Intel PRO-Wireless 2100 LAN bg • Microsoft Works • Windows XP (Home Edition) • Optical Mouse • Trend PC-Clean Anti-Virus • 1.5 kgs

Php 82,900 at **Php 7,742/month***



• Intel® Pentium® M Dohern 2 MB cache at 1.5 GHz
• 256 MB DDR 333 • 40 GB Hard Disk Drive • 15" TFT Active LCD • ATI RS 3000 Chipset • 4 USB Ports • LAN/Modem • Intel PRO-Wireless LAN 2200 • CD/DVD-RW/Combo Drive • PCMCIA 2.1 • TV-Out • 2 IEEE FireWire Ports • ATI 64 MB Radeon • Audio DJ • Microsoft Works • Trend PC-Clean Anti-Virus • Carrying Case • Optical Mouse • Windows XP (Home Edition)

Php 85,900 at **Php 7,492/month***



• Intel® Pentium® 4 at 2.3 GHz • 256 MB DDR RAM Memory • 15" TFT Active LCD • 60 GB Hard Disk Drive • ATI Radeon 9600 64 MB DDR video Memory • USB Floppy Disk Drive • Built-in DVD-RW Drive • Built-in SuperColor • 3-in-1 Card Reader • Windows XP (Home Edition) • Audio DJ • Carrying Case • Trend PC-Clean Anti-Virus • Optical Mouse

Php 90,900 at **Php 8,325/month***

0% interest on any credit cards in 12 months*

*Subject to bank and store approval



ASUS SERVICE CENTERS

Makati: ASUS, 1044 D
Cyruspin, 3rd Floor
9th Floor, Bldg. 1
(02) 838 2000

Batong Commercial, Inc.
www.asus.com.ph
801 794 9918 ext. 1401/1402
batong@asus.com.ph

Cebu: (020) 416 8731 / 37



COMPLINK (02) 820.9140 to 41 TCA (02) 837.1200 SILICON VALLEY (02) 371.5611 to 18 VILLMAN COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (02) 892.2222

THINKING TOOLS (032) 264.2227 X-COMP (032) 262.5165 to 57 WIRED SYSTEMS (032) 268.5282 CONCEPT ILOILO (034) 337.5874

Electroworld 813 6164 | Columbia Computers 835 9087 | ITComputer Mart 633 4390 | Tristar Computer 733 1142 to 43 | Accent Micro 426-9829 | Compuex 711 0288

BC9 Computers Bacolod (034) 434.2532 to 36 | Microstation 837 1473 | Starapple 811 1421 to 25 | PC Line 634 2438 | Astromic 693 0408 | PC Corner Gaisano 723 2837

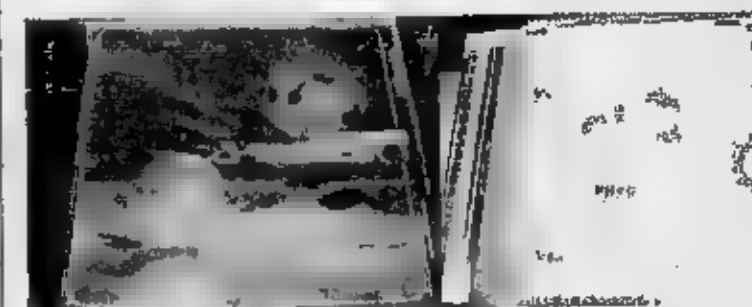
10 funky finds

From page E1



Travel guides

Lonely Planet and DK Eyewitness Travel Guide were my best friends and perennial mentors when I was living in Europe. It's not necessary to pay much for a city tour when these books are there to help you up your historical IQ and swim in a new, foreign culture—all at your own pace. These are some of the best investments when going on a trip. ("Lonely Planet," P714-P1,400, "DK Eyewitness Travel Guides" P899-P1394, Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall)



Urban Dub CDs

Urban Dub is an amazing band from Cebu. While its first album, "Birth," spanned the powerful singles "Come" and "It's Over", the second album, "Influence," was crowned "Album of the Year" at the 2004 NU 107 Rock Awards. (P250, Music Video, Power Plant Mall)



Thai pillow

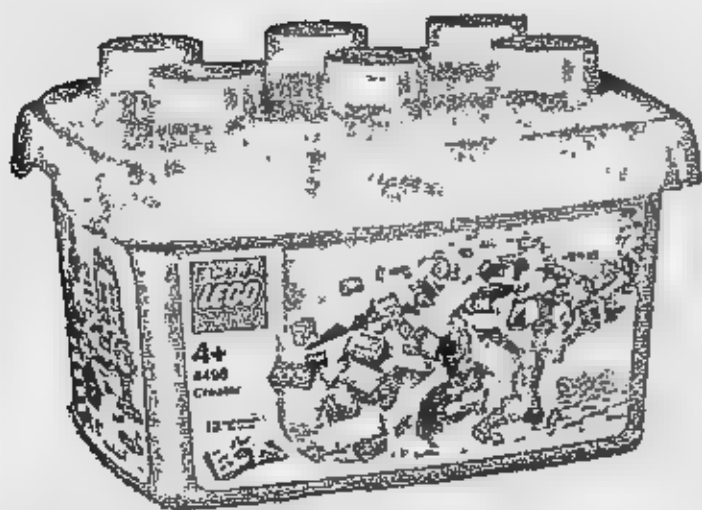
Thai interiors are some of the prettiest in the world. Dressing your pillows with these pillowcases are enough to throw in palettes of exotic color into your home without having to splurge on a full-scale renovation. (P590-P690, Nullah, Independent Lifestyles, at Power Plant Mall)

PHOTOS BY CHERYL TAY

**TOM (CAT)****EXTRAORDINARY PAPER HAT**

It's a hat, it's a cat and... um, it's made of paper. This gift is perfect for those who wish to flaunt their "kiddiness" while still looking trendy. Wear the hat and show everyone your love for cartoons. After all, who doesn't remember Tom and Jerry? Available at Chi Chi Rico, Market Market!

Young at heart —for life!

**LEGO**

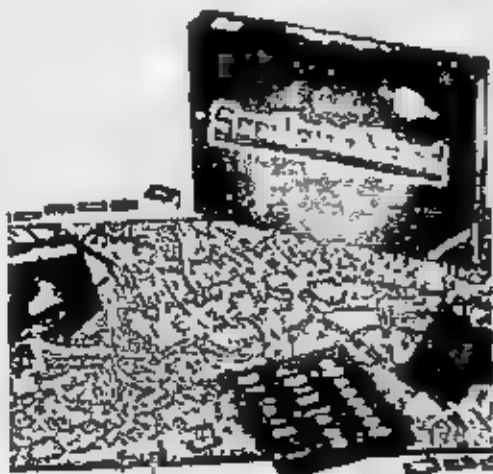
Lego has always proven to be an everlasting "toy," fun and simple enough to play as a child yet also complex enough for adults to enjoy. The best Lego product is still the classic block-by-block assemblage rather than the new-fangled Technic or Bionicle. For that extra "geeky" goodness, go for the Lego/Star Wars products. Who cares if you look childish playing with these things? They're awesome! Available at Toy Kingdom.

By Javier Mata
ZbUI Correspondent

Some people
just refuse to
grow up. Here
are some
things to
make them
happy this
season

SCOTLAND YARD GAME BOARD

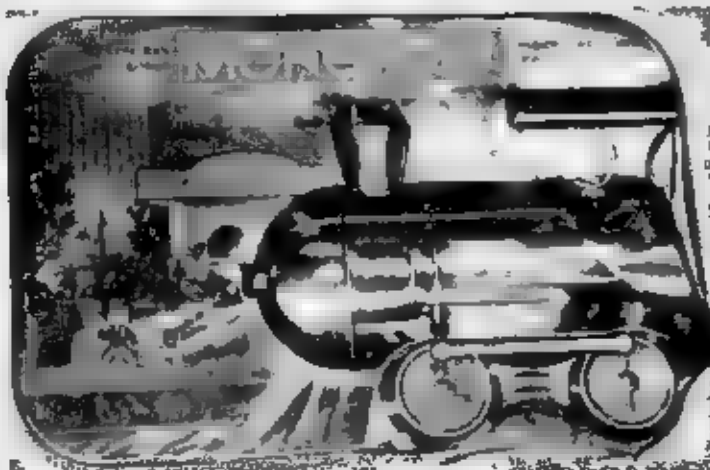
Tired of playing the same old Monopoly or Snakes and Ladders? Check out Scotland Yard, a unique kind of game for the family and any party. The premise is simple: One person is Mr. X the criminal, everybody else is the police. Mr. X wins if he escapes, the police win if they catch him. What makes this game different is that it allows the smug players to test how far they can outsmart their friends. A funny game of catch-me-if-you-can, Scotland Yard can be ordered from www.uber-games.com (a local company, so there are no shipping hassles involved).

**VINTAGE TOYS**

Wind-up monkey
shining shoe, musical
boxes with dancing
clowns.
Kaleidoscopes from
Firma, Greenbelt 3
(Call 7574809)

SPOOFS T-SHIRTS

If there's ever a quintessentially Pinoy business idea, it would have to be Spoofs Ltd, the line of shirts that spoofs famous brand logos and names and turns them into sublimely funny rip-offs. Since its inception, it has created dozens of memorable shirts: "Suotmotofre Faraguala" (Salvatore Ferragamo), "Bolo" (Polo), "No Fera" (No Fear), "Starbuko" (Starbucks).

**ALL ABOARD!**

Monopoly Railroad Collector's Edition, P2,500,
Hobbes, Greenbelt 3

merit Christmas Gift suggestions



Scrapbook



Sticker Box



Diary



Buddy Bag



Butterfly Bag



Photo Box



School Tote



Midmax



Activity Fun Set



Photo Hang-Ups

Visit your favorite retailer

- Shoemart Department Stores - all branches
- Rustan's Department Store - Makati & Shangri-la
- National Bookstore • Kid's Station • Metro Market Market
- Landmark Department Store
- Makro and other leading stores nationwide.



Helping Build Bright Futures

SILENT NIGHTS

ENJOY 2 NIGHTS AND GET THE THIRD NIGHT FREE.

For a quick getaway this Holiday Season, take your family to Edsa Shangri-La, Manila. Book a 2-night stay at a Deluxe room for only Php9,300++*, and get the third consecutive night free. We'll even treat you to a buffet breakfast for two in our coffee shop on the first two days. And to further enjoy this break, dine at our specialty restaurants, try any of the hotel amenities or simply relax in the luxury of our bedrooms. For inquiries and reservations, call (02) 636-9082 to 87 or email reservations.es@shangri-la.com. At Edsa Shangri-La, restful nights are part of our Christmas treat.

*Plus 10% Service Charge and 10% VAT and Gov't Tax. Subject to availability and prior confirmed reservations. Open to local residents and employees residing in the Philippines only. Proof of residency may be required upon check-in. Package valid until January 10, 2005. For G11-MCR No. 8082, Series of 2004.



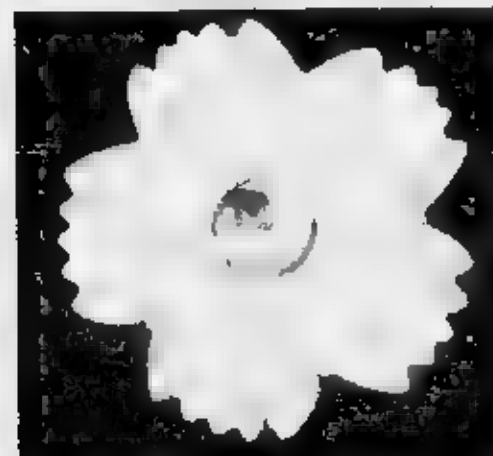
HANDPAINTED kalachuchi on resin-covered popsicle stick with bead cluster earrings, Get Happy



CHI CHI Rice tatarai slippers come in plain (P220), checkered (P280) or with embroidery (P320)



BONO brand slippers with pinstriped fabric and leather, P1300, available at CHI CHI



FLOWER embossed Mother of Pearl shell with rhinestone pin, Get Happy



BEAD and wire brooch, P595, Get Happy



GET Happy laminated travel charm bracelet



Beachbum's stocking stuffers

Some gift ideas for the sun, sand and tan-obsessed

By Kristine Ching
24U Correspondent

IT'S TOUGH for the beach-obsessed to be stuck in the city on Christmas. If you care about them, then be so guided when you give them gifts. Either you bring them to the beach or you bring the beach to the city.

Get them something they'll bring on their next trip. It's more practical and they would most likely use it unless they already have it. The toiletries kit (P350 at Karl Edward Bazaar) comes with a hook so beach bums can rust hang it on the bathroom wall. It saves the beach lovers' time from unpacking, which they can use for more sunbathing. Throw in some toiletries for a subtle hint that it's time to wash their dreadlocks.

Just because beach lovers like their look au naturel doesn't mean they're not into make-up and accessories. Think: beach parties! It never hurts to have an accessory or two and body glitter. Check out Body Shop's new glitter makeup sets.

Get Happy's new line features accessories with colors reminiscent of summer. (Available at U Rustan's in Makati and Robinsons Place Ermita; XOXO Rustan's Tower Shangri-La, The Store with No Name at Robinsons Galleria, Shubazz at the Shops Greenhills and Market Market; ISHQ at Astoria Plaza; Magnet Plus at The Loop, ABS-CBN; Paseo Center in Makati; and Katipunan.)

If fashionistas can't get enough of shoes and bags, beach bums can't get enough of flip-flops. Havaianas are said to be durable, but no one's sure how they will fare in the urban jungle. Cheaper alternatives are Banana Peel (P50-100), Offshore (P100-150) and Planet (P100-150), available at SM. Offshore and



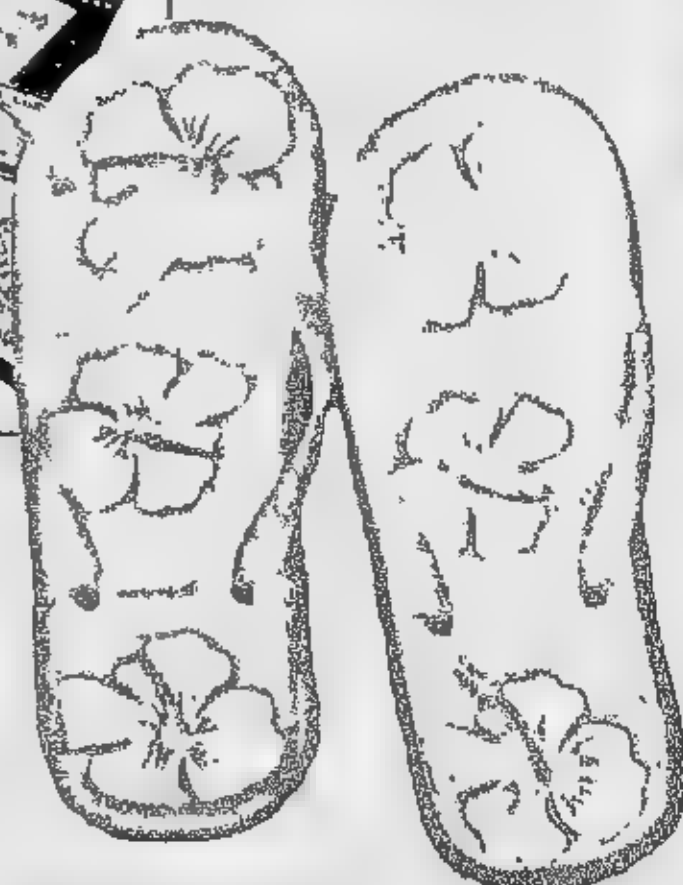
SCENTS of the Islands bath bars, Indie Art Home Spa

Planet have summer-inspired designs, while Banana Peel has very colorful flip-flops.

A beach fanatic may also enjoy summer-scented goods. Body Shop's Oceanus is available in different gift sets suited to one's budget. Indie Art Home Spa by Marge D. Manalaysay, available at Karl Edward Bazaar and Magnet Plus branches, is a homegrown brand that makes soaps (P150-250), lotions, skin butter (P395), essential oils, aroma oils, massage oils (P250-400 for oils), and candles (P395). They come in exotic tropical scents like champaka, melon-papaya, mangorita, cocomangas.



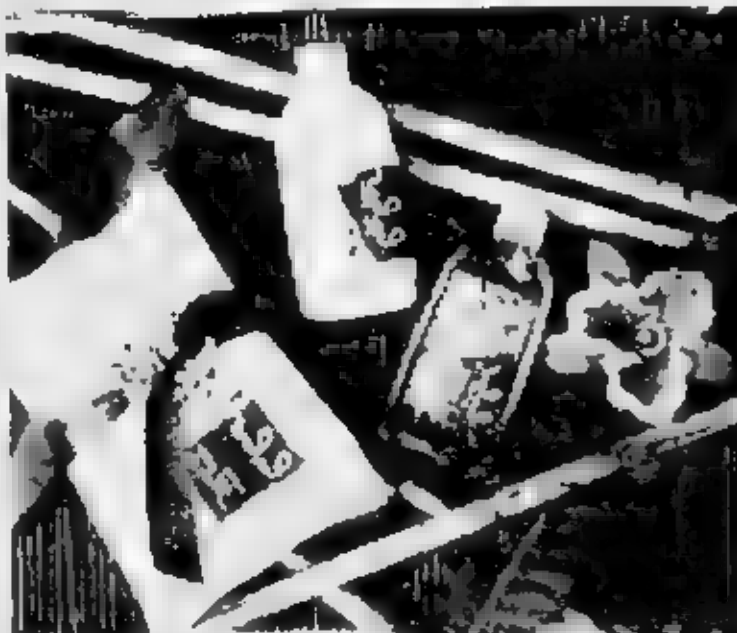
FLORAL Havaianas, available at Rustan's



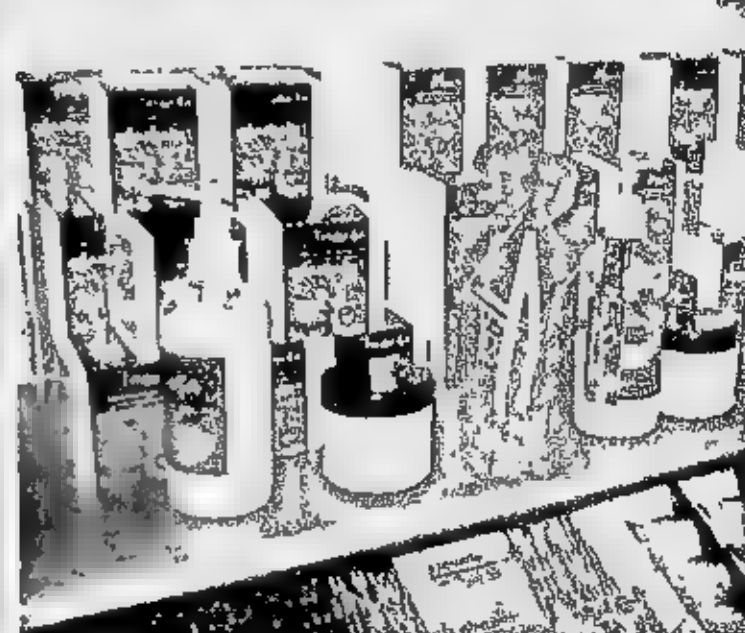
BANANA Peel hibiscus-printed flip-flops



INDIE Art Home Spa massage oils come in Brazilian orange, lotus and the traditional lukur. Samplers of the three come in pretty batik pouches.



LUXUR Tropics gift set with bamboo cucumber cromo wash and traditional lukur oil, Indie Art Home Spa



BESTSELLER. Indie Art Home Spa skin butter in champaka, moonsummer and cocomangas, P395/bottle, P200/jar

PHOTOS BY HAPPY DAVID AND KRISTINE CHING

TOILETRIES kit (P350, Karl Edward Bazaar at the NBC Tent, on Dec. 18-22, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.)



BAG with badges. Whatever bag you like, plus as many funky buttons as you can afford, equals a stylish and personalized present.

CANDIES in a container. Let them enjoy the sweets and then recycle the container.



Gifts by hand, from the heart

Text and photos
by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU1 Correspondent

NOTHING can truly top a personalized present, with all the effort, time and love poured into making it.

Whether it's a culinary concoction that you yourself created or a unique keepsake that will surely pull at the heartstrings, a personalized gift holds more meaning and value, and has a smaller chance of being recycled.

It's fun to make and is usually cheaper, too.

So flex those skilled fingers and challenge those creative brain cells of yours this yuletide season. Here are some items you can enjoy making and be truly proud of giving.



PERSONALIZED shirt. Make a statement using your own statements (plus some fabric paint, too).



"Royal" is a trademark of The Coca-Cola Company. © 2004 The Coca-Cola Company

LIVE A FESTIVAL OF MALLS ONLY AT
FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
PILINVEST-ALABANG

Experience 12 weeks of
Christmas

Grant-A-Wish

December 8, 2004 - January 2, 2005

Grant-A-Wish Raffle

Every purchase of P500 (single or accumulated) from any participating Festival Supermall store or restaurant from December 8, 2004 - January 2, 2005 entitles the customer to a raffle coupon at the level 2 Customer Service Counter.

Prizes

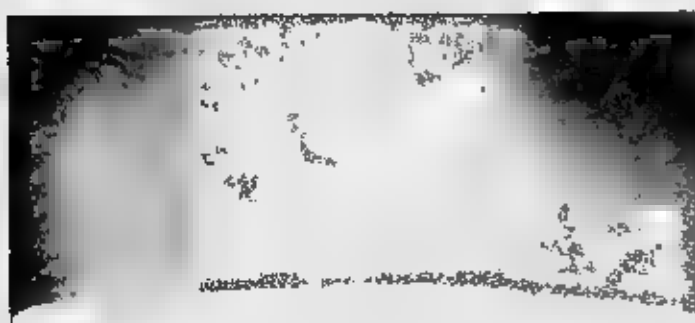
- (2) Bratz Gift Sets
- (2) Kiddie Mountain Bikes
- (2) Barbie Gift Sets
- (2) Sony Playstations
- (2) Motorola C375 Phone Kits
- (2) "My First Wheels" Motorbikes
- (2) Ipod Mini

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-580, Series of 2004

Grant-A-Wish Charity

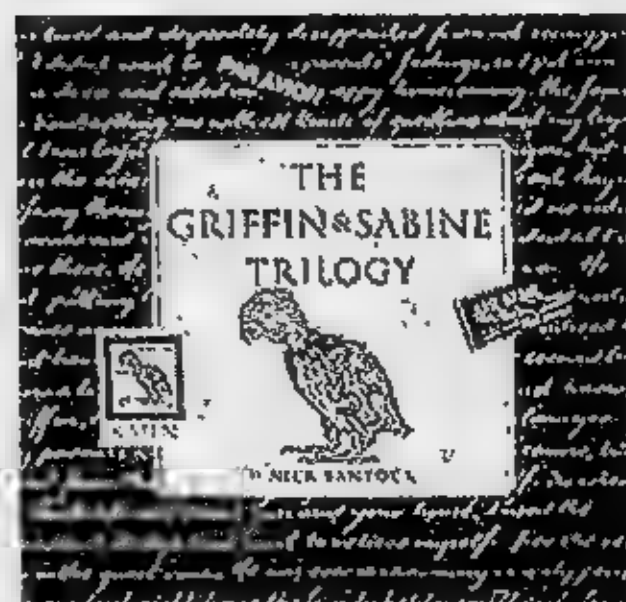
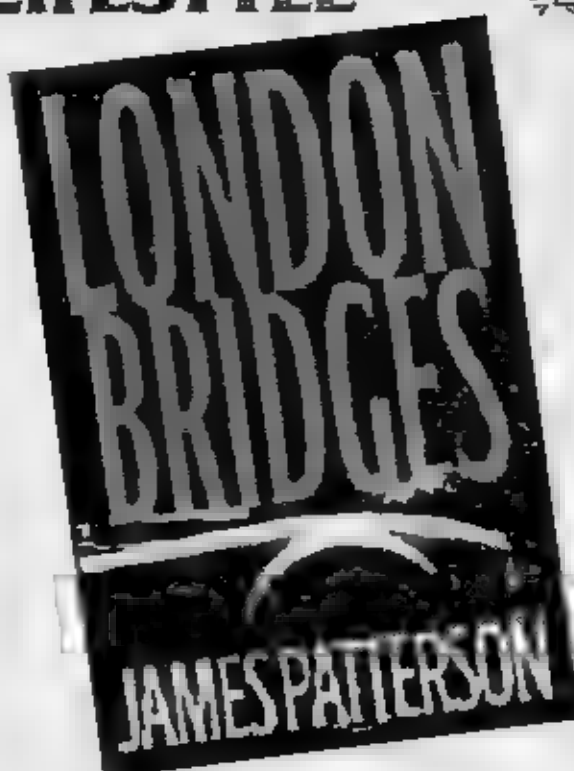
Every P5 donation you make entitles you to a Christmas Bell, which you can get from the Customer Service Counter. Then, hang this on our giant Christmas tree! Proceeds will go to the streetchildren of Muntinlupa City.

PILINVEST



ELIE
WIESEL

Judges



These books will
make great gifts
this Christmas

Holiday reads

By Javier Mata
2b/11 Correspondent

'Griffin and Sabine Trilogy'
By Nick Bantock

Power Books.
'London Bridges'
By James Patterson

'The Judges: A Novel'
By Elie Wiesel

'The Dilbert Principle'
By Scott Adams

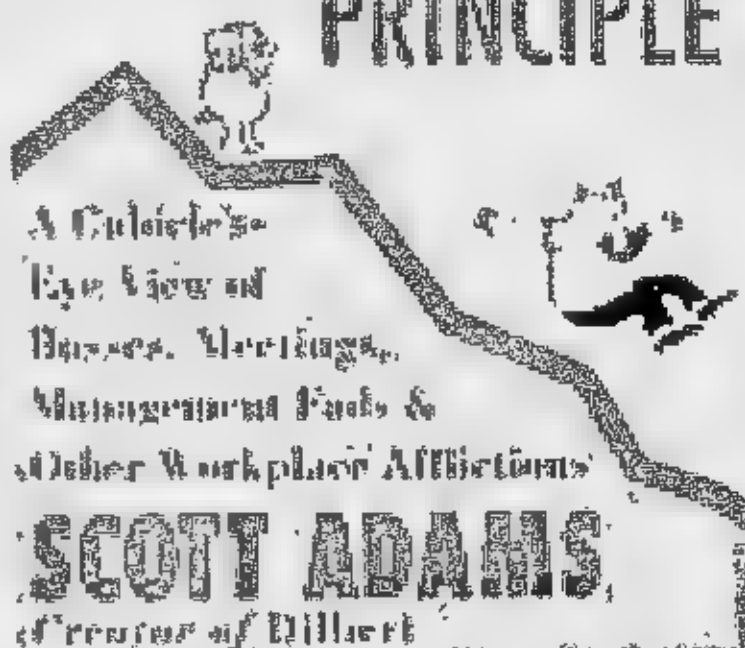
A fun and often satirical look at office life, Scott Adams' comic strip Dilbert gives us a glimpse of the insanity that is the office setting, with the humor and content strikingly close to the real thing. That same humor is now in the book, "The Dilbert Principle," which makes a great gift for your hapless friends who work in the modern prison cell known as the office cubicle. Available at Power Books.

This series of books is unique in its own right. Do you get a thrill out of reading things you're not supposed to be reading? Like someone else's personal letters? Well, Nick Bantock's enchanting series gives you just that. Each "page" is actually an authentic-looking postcard or letter, complete with envelopes, stamps, return addresses, handwritten notes and even typographical "errors." The well-played out love story progresses as you read the correspondence between Griffin and Sabine, and it makes for a very alluring read. Available in

Alex Cross ("Along Came a Spider," "Kiss the Girls") returns for his most explosive adventure yet. Fans of James Patterson's cunning FBI agent will find this 10th venture an exciting one. This time, Cross finds himself facing two of his most dangerous enemies: the terrorist known only as the Wolf and the assassin known only as the Weasel. Full of false leads, whodunits and other detective story staples, this book will not disappoint fans of James Patterson's stories. Available in National Book Store.

A suspense thriller like no other. When a plane is brought down by bad weather, five of the passengers seek refuge in the home of a mysterious man known only as the Judge. Each passenger has a story to tell, and a dark secret to hide. Things quickly become disturbing as their enigmatic host begins to interrogate them and force them to face their past and their future. Soon, he makes a horrifying announcement: One of them—the least worthy—will die. This startling novel is a must read for the introspective reader. Available in National Book Store.

THE DILBERT PRINCIPLE



YOUTH AID
2004
celebrates
International Children's Day today!

We need the support of students and schools, parents and teachers, young leaders and youth organizations, government and corporate communities, media and other sectors.

JOIN US
in making a difference
in one day for children
facing very challenging
situations.

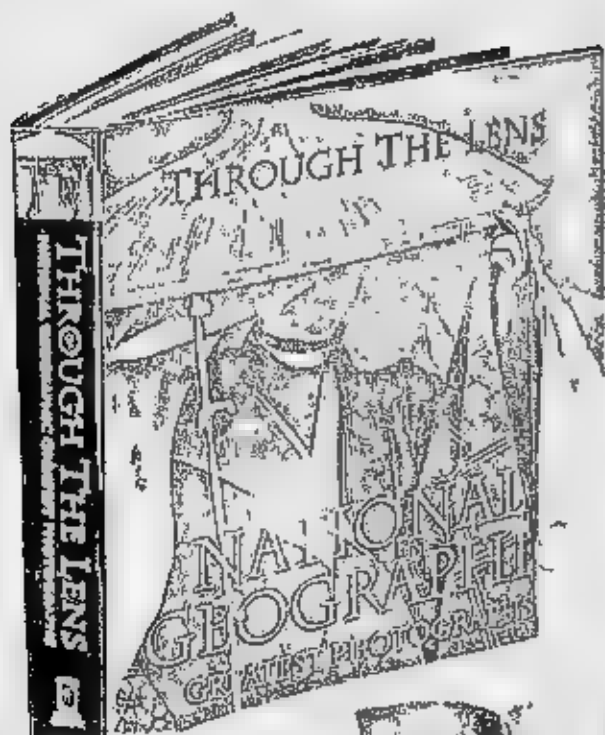
631-3422
10 San Manuel St.
Capitol, Pasig City
Fax: 6355180
email: youthaid@givestars.com

631-4872
Telefax: 634-2518
email: youthaid@carminelfoundation.org

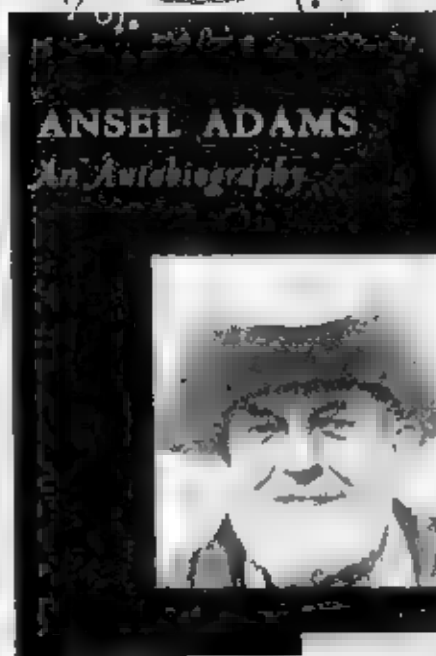
beneficiaries: Children's Network, GMA, Philippine Normal University, etc.

partners: INQUIRER, etc.

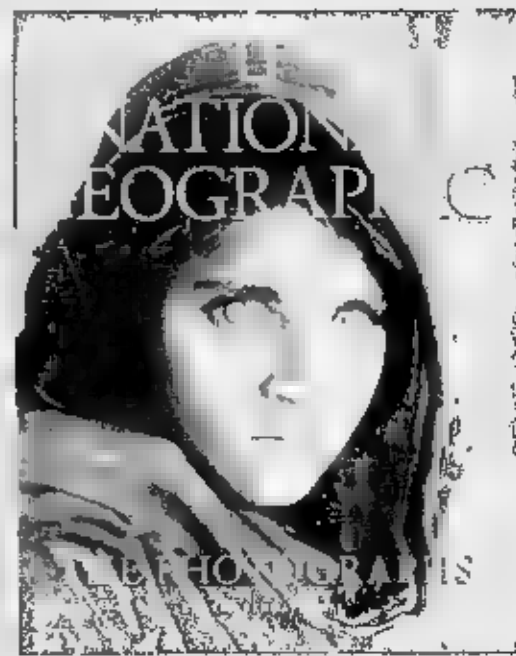
donors: etc.



THE A-Z of Creative Photography



ANSEL Adams: An Autobiography



NATIONAL Geographic: The Photographs



NATIONAL Geographic: Through the Lens

Shopping for the shutterbug

By Catherine Young
2bU Correspondent

If you're thinking of a gift for someone who loves photography but you can't afford a digital camera, take heart. There are still a lot of affordable things you can get him, from collectors' items to autobiographies of famous photographers.

1. National Geographic: The Photographs: The cover features what is arguably the most famous stick photograph of the magazine, the young Afghan girl with otherworldly eyes. This collection comprises the landmark pictures that cemented National Geographic's reputation as a formidable force in world photography.

2. National Geographic: Through the Lens: Another popular NatGeo publication, Through the Lens features a more varied hodgepodge of photographs. Covering all subjects, from portraits to underwater pictures, this book will suit the photographer who likes to take shots of everything.

3. In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits: I love this book, maybe because I dream of becoming a documentary photographer someday. The book itself is made up of 280 arresting images that span decades of photographic history.

4. Film: No matter how much

the digital camera has revolutionized photography, there is always room for the classic, purer form of film. Photography buffs who love to develop their own pictures (sometimes more for the ritual than for the results), will always appreciate a couple of rolls in their Christmas stocking.

5. Memory stick: For those who have gone way too trigger-happy with their digital cameras, memory sticks are a great way to go. This is especially a good idea for photo buffs who like to travel all the time, or those who just simply hate to delete anything.

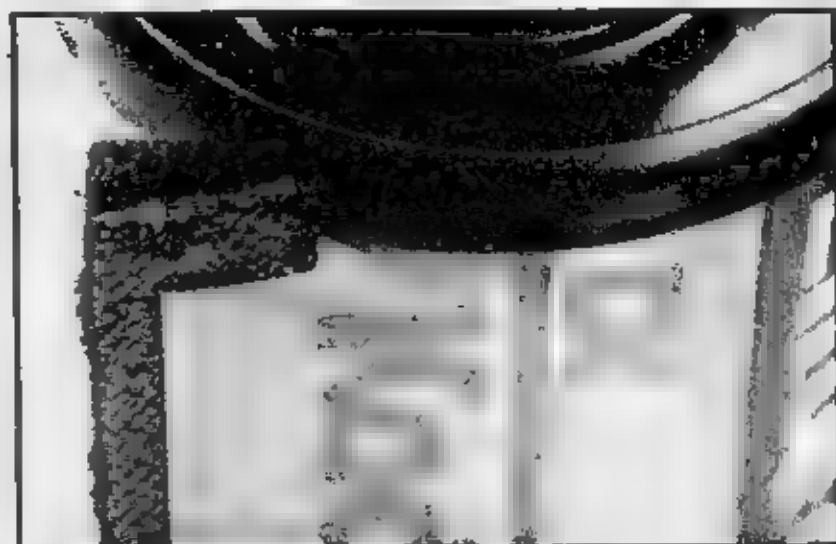
Plus, they're easy to wrap too.

6. The A-Z of Creative Photography: One of the most concise photo books I've come across, Lee Frost's The A-Z of Creative Photography instructs the amateur shutterbug on the varieties of photographic art. With tips on everything from achieving the perfect soft focus to capturing the perfect candid shot, this book is a great addition to any photo junkie's library.

7. Ansel Adams: An Autobiography: Learn the fascinating life of one of the greatest photographers of our time. Ansel Adams (1902-1984) is the American conservationist photographer who made his mark by capturing the wild beauty of western landscapes. As a young boy, he was inspired by a trip to Yosemite, and years later, won three Guggenheim grants to photograph national parks.

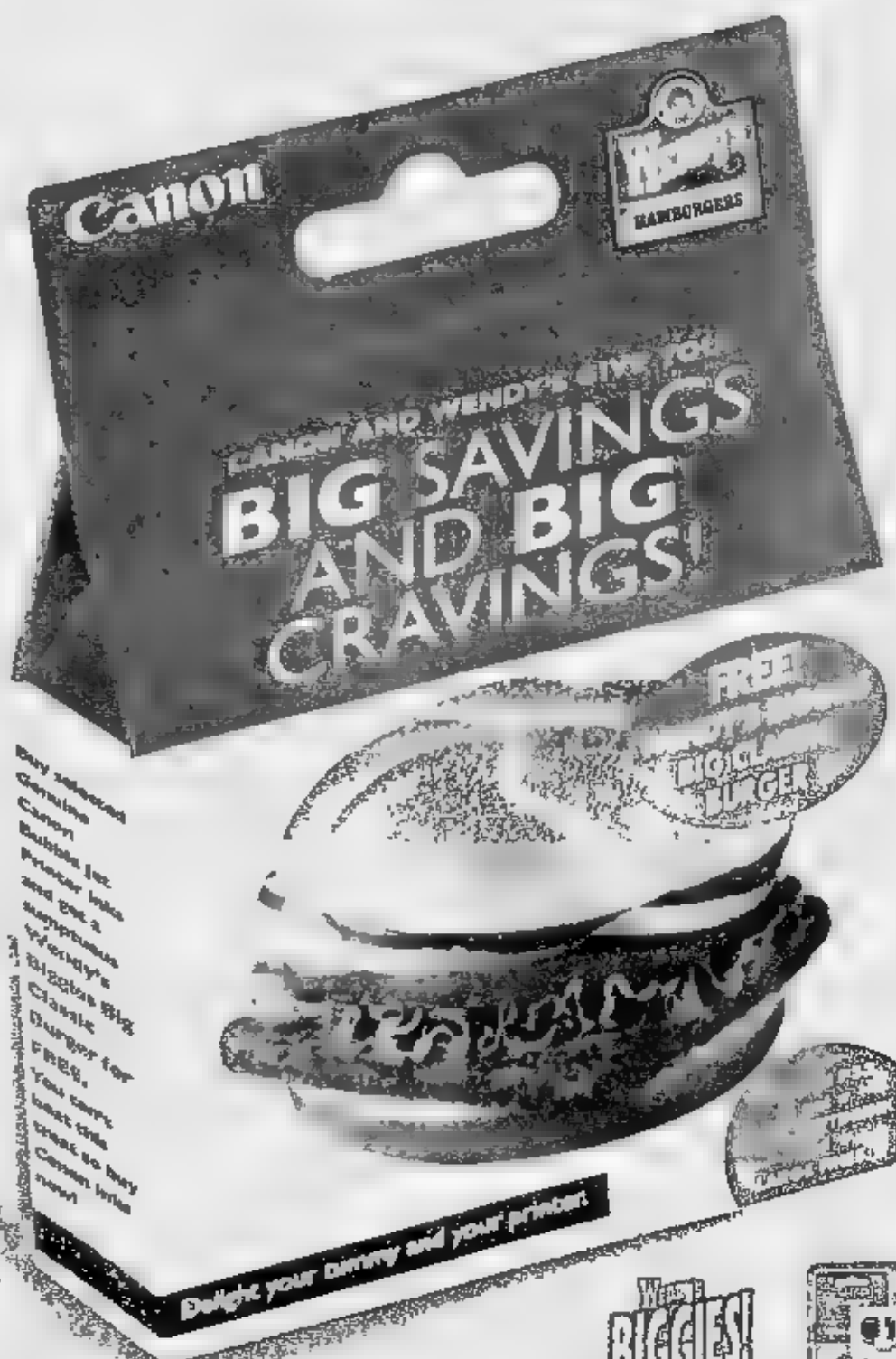
E-mail the author at
cathy.young1@yahoo.com

Can't afford a digital camera for your photography-crazy loved one? Check out these more affordable but no less precious alternatives



ROLL of film for the photo junkie in your life

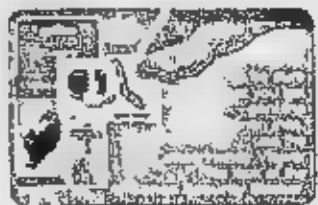
Canon



MECHANICS

1. Purchase selected Genuine Canon Bubble Jet Printer Ink at any dealers or retail outlets.
2. Look for the promo sticker "BIG SAVINGS, BIG CRAVINGS" with Free (1) Biggie's Burger from Canon and Wendy's on the Genuine Canon BJ Printer Ink box.
3. To claim the free Biggie's Burger, present the whole Genuine Canon BJ Printer Ink box to any branch of Wendy's in Metro Manila, Cebu, Laguna, Pampanga, Bulacan and Baguio City only.
4. The Manager or Supervisor of Wendy's will verify if the Canon BJ Printer Ink box presented is genuine or non-original.
5. To avail of additional (1) LARGE FRIES and (1) LARGE SOFTDRINK, just add ₱33.00 together with the Genuine Canon BJ Printer Ink box to the counter.
6. All claims will be valid for 60 days after the promo period.

With BIGGIES!
and BIGGIES!



USE ONLY
GENUINE
CANON
CONTINUED

Promo period is from December 1, 2004 to January 31, 2005.
For DTI-NCR Permit No. 5856, Series of 2004.
See posters and flyers for details.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Rocas Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tel.: 812-8047 / 812-8078 to 79 / 892-8448 • Fax: 810-9787
E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph



IN FOCUS: National
Geographic Greatest
Portraits

A fairy tale Christmas event comes true...



SMART Kid's SHREKTacle Christmas Celebration

DEC. 14-16 - SM MEGAMALL
(Bldg. A, Ground Floor)
DEC. 15 - STA. LUCIA EAST
GRAND MALL
DEC. 15 - KIDZWORLD
(Cavite City)
DEC. 22-23 - PODIUM &
GREENHILLS THEATRE MALL
CATCH THE REAL SHREK
STRAIGHT FROM THE US!



SMART Kid brings more fun activities that let kids express their creativity!

- Photo Opportunities with Shrek Characters
- Shrek Character Village
- Snowflake Photo Booth
- Christmas Puppet Show
- Art and Craft
- Face Painting
- The Great Snowman

- SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona
- SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona
- Goody
- Goody
- Goody
- Goody
- Goody
- Goody



Now Shrek is on TV!
MagnaVision



Please call the SMART Kid Hotline at 020 8881 for more information on the SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona event. SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona is a registered trademark of SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona. SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona is a registered trademark of SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona. SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona is a registered trademark of SMART Kid's Shrek & Fiona.



THE PERFECT pair of jeans. That elusive pair is no longer beyond your reach. Call Ino Caluza (0917-8504543) and get a gift card for you or your friend (or both!) for Kustom Fit Viktor jeans. Thread wound Red Envelope already comes with a white card with various denim swatches to choose from! Be a citizen! Be fitter, richer, happier.



THE VERSATILE TOP. Give your best friend the station blouse and let her shine any way she likes. Ten-Way Ivory Station Blouse from RAJO. Also available in Lime, Aqua, Salmon, Fuchsia and Black. Comes in sleeveless and ¾ sleeved style. P2,395 House of Laurel (8975063), 6013 Villena corner Manalac, Makati City.

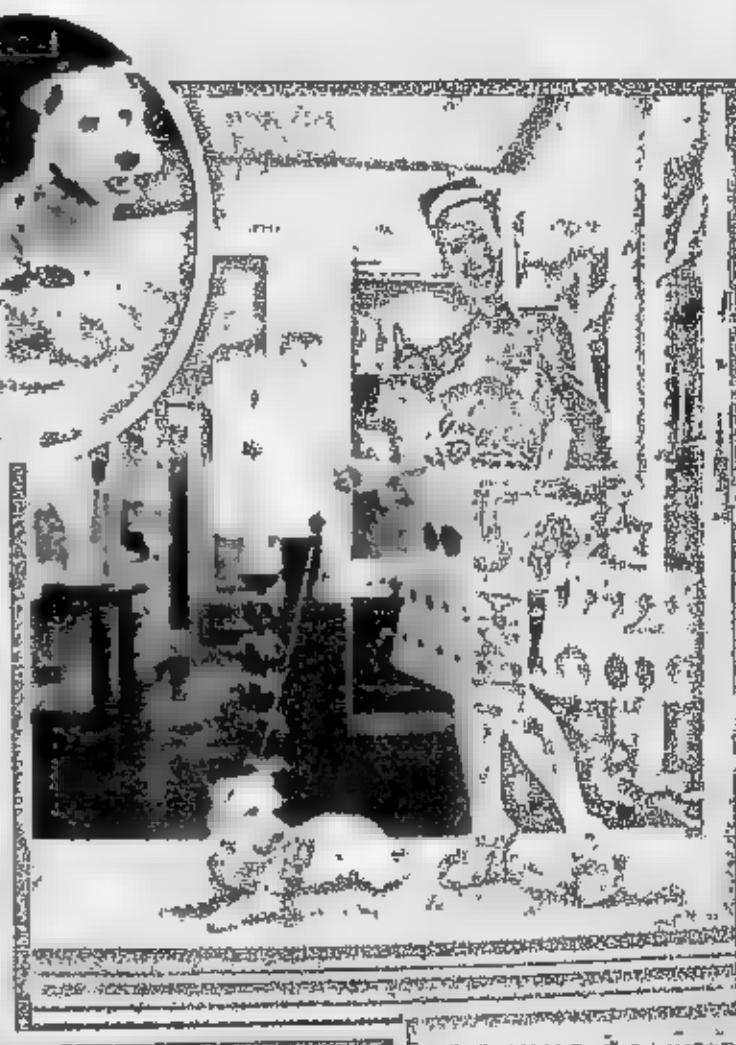
For the fab Fashionista

Text and photos by Happy David
2bU! Correspondent

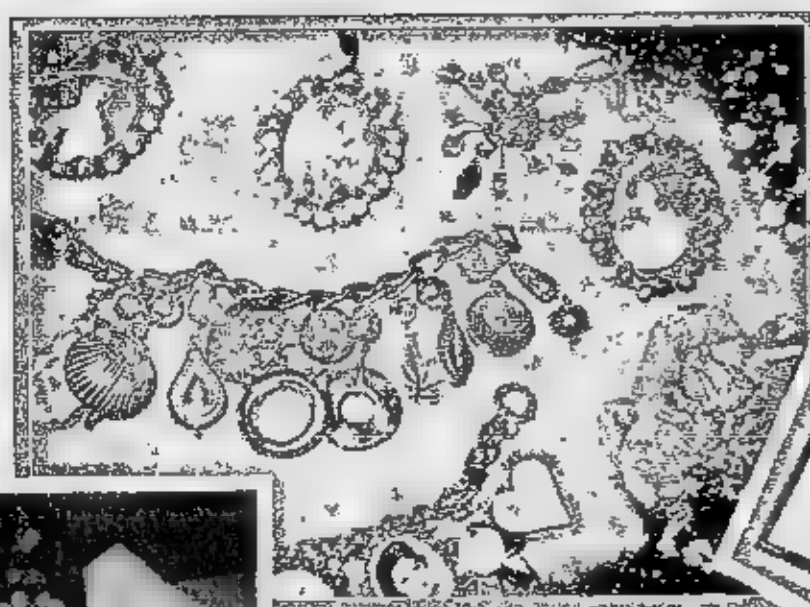
She's 'a girl who always looks current and cutting-edge even when her clothes are vintage 1950s. She wears what she likes and always looks fantastic...' So says 'The Fashionista Files'



FOR tired shopping feet. Relaxing foot massage treatment gift voucher, P330, 15-20 percent off for members, The Suriya Spa at Gold's Gym, 3/F Glorietta 3 (8931818)



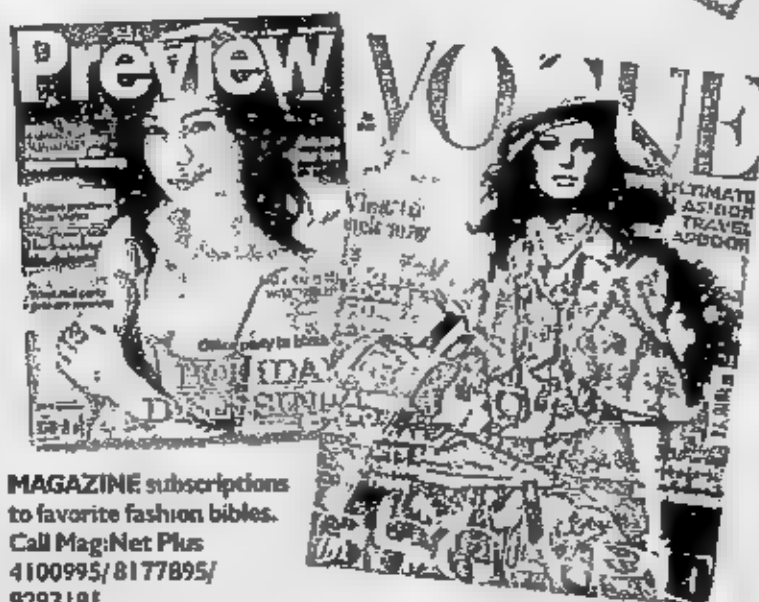
KEEP her safe and open to positive energy with this colorful bag charm talisman from the Middle East, P1,495, House of Laurel (8975063), 6013 Villena corner Manalac, Makati City.



VINTAGE glam

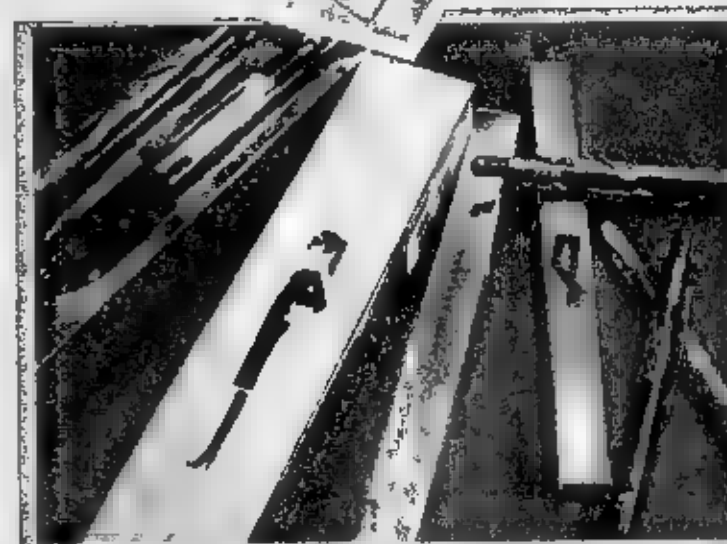


GYPSY-inspired accessories for next year. Make sure she stays ahead of the pack with the latest accessories from Chi Chi Rico, inspired by the bohemian lifestyle trend for 2005. Chi Chi Rico, Market!Market!



MAGAZINE subscriptions to favorite fashion bibles. Call Mag:Net Plus 4100995/8177895/9293191.

the old world charm of personally handwritten notes. Make sure you do it right with these chic items. Rina Albert Fashion Illustration Paper Collection Mini Notebook P70, Journal Notebook P140, Memo Pad P40, PowerBooks



JORDI Labanda Pen Collection, Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall. Ballpen and mechanical pencil set, P399, mechanical pencil, P180, fountain pen, P439

POOCH FASHION. Extend the gift of fashion down to her fave pet in an outfit from the WalterPucci Line by Kate Torralba for Firma Maate. The line was inspired by two very vain and spoiled Jack Russells: Walter, Markus Schmidt and Richard Danao's baby, and the late Pucci, KT's guardian puppy angel

Help for the fashion-challenged

SHE buys an outfit that is perfectly in style, but when she wears it, she looks perfectly ridiculous. She only purchases brand-name apparel, and will only consider wearing an item that is "the latest trend," regardless of whether she can pull it off or not. Now there's a fashion victim. How to help her?

EQUIP her with the basics. 2bU! recommends Tyler, Bayo and Kashieca



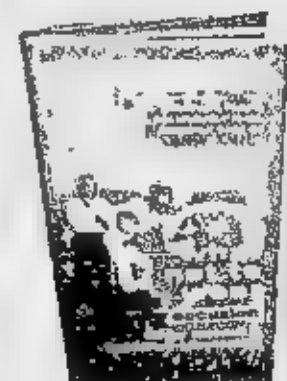
INTRODUCE her to the Fab 5, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," by Ted Allen, Kyan Douglas, Thom Filicia, Carson Kressley, Jai Rodriguez. Pap1,174, Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall

"ALL You Need To Survive: Three Black Skirts," Anna Johnson P767, Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall



"THE FASHIONISTA Files," Melissa de la Cruz and Karen Robbinovitz, P670, Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall

"WHAT You Wear Can Change Your Life," Trimmy Woodall and Susannah Constantine



"WHAT Not to Wear" series, Trimmy Woodall and Susannah Constantine, P545 and P454, Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall

AMP

ADDICT MOBILE PREPAID

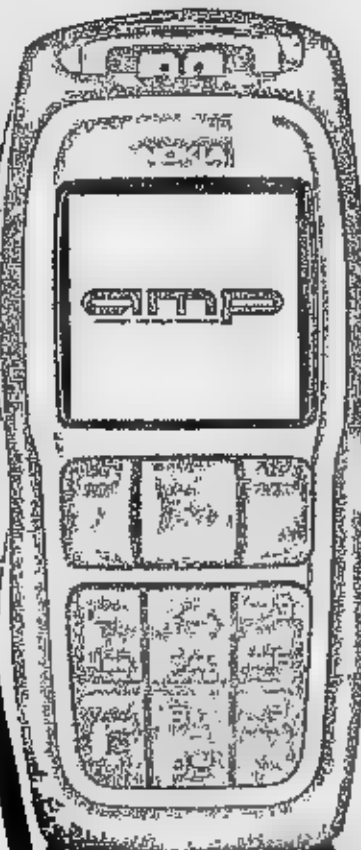
Get the whole gang groovin'



SONY ERICSSON T230
w/ camera
only
P6,390.00



SIEMENS MC60
only
P6,190.00



NOKIA 3220
only
P11,790.00



NOKIA 3120
only
P3,690.00



NOKIA 3200
only
P3,590.00



NOKIA N-GAGE
only
P11,690.00



SONY ERICSSON K500i
only
P4,990.00



SMART AMAZING PHONE2
only
P7,990.00

Gather the gang, and score some AMP'd up freebies when you grab any of these affordable AMP MMS phone kits! Available only at SMART CEllebration.

Visit the SMART CEllebration booth at a mall nearest you!
For OTT-NCR Permit No. 5554, Series of 2004.



P200
Get the AMP Custom Kit
packed in the exclusive
White Noise kit.

**SMART
Cellebration!**
NATIONWIDE

Now you're in.

addict

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GO

For feedback, e-mail us at life@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



Find game cards in Kodak films for a chance to win instant cash prizes. Promo until December 31, 2004



LIFESTYLE



VINYL Blank CD. For the buddy who loves anything vintage! Burn her a copy of her favorite tunes or simply give her a stack of 10. P28.50, Office Warehouse

'Dalagita' delights

By Inez Bautista, Contributor
with free advice from Candy Magazine

BECAUSE the gifts you give clue your friends in to who you are, gift-giving is a task we all must face with some determination and lots of creativity.

So to save you time and holiday headaches, Candy magazine has put together a list of gifts that are fun, thoughtful, and sweet—just like you (or who you want your friends to think you are anyway)!



POLKA-DOT slippers. Is she always complaining about how her poor feet hurt from her three-inch heels? Treat her to some slipper therapy. P290, Iya Guingona Lagdameo (E-mail iya_g@hotmail.com)

DALAGITA/GI

Down under and on top of the world.

by Lawrence Tiu
ALS IBO Qualifier



AMWAY's top Independent Business Owners (IBOs) for Fiscal Year 2004 banded for a souvenir shot during the Amway Leadership Seminar (ALS) 2004 in Gold Coast, Australia. As the company's prime sales incentive program, the ALS is an annual overseas fete awarded to IBOs in recognition of their outstanding sales and distribution performance for the year.

"Do they bite?" My hand was shaking as I tried to reach out to touch their ear. Mustering enough courage, I shrugged and just took comfort in the impression that they looked innocent and gentle. True enough, their furry brown coat, much like that of a cat, was soft to the touch. And upclose, they looked so adorably cute. Kangaroos - I'm definitely not in Manila anymore.

Before embarking on the ALS Gold Coast adventure, my wife Sherry Lynn and I did not even have a passport. Overseas travel was not even in our plans, nor in our dreams. Amway co-founder Rich DeVos hit it right on the head when he said, "You have to have hope before you can dream." Not long after, I realized the business indeed gave me true hope to dream, and now, I and Sherry Lynn are starting to live that dream.

Warner Bros. Movie World was just like in the movies. We walked the streets of Gotham with Batman and Robin; had our picture taken in Hollywood with Austin Powers and Marilyn Monroe, stood beside Neo of the blockbuster flick Matrix to fight the sentinels; and gawked when Batman zoomed overhead. For a movie buff like me, the place was heaven!

What would it take for you to touch the real Batmobile? How about riding the Hogwarts Express from Platform 9 3/4? How does a bunch of cadets from the Police Academy blowing up a helicopter 30 feet away, sound to you?

In our trip to Gold Coast, we also walked along the beach at Surfers Paradise, admired the city of Brisbane from the peak of Mt. Coot-ha, drove through the race course of the Indy 300, and shopped in an island-mall called Pacific Fair.

The best is always saved for last, as they say. The finale in our itinerary was an enchanted evening on a showboat while cruising down a lazy river. Later that night, the entertainment took a surprising twist during the audience participation segment when Ernie Fernandez stole the show with his Samoan Dance and Dale Ibay with his rousing musical performance.

When asked if Gold Coast was nice, I tell them New Zealand will be far more beautiful. Because that is where we intend to qualify next year. But wherever our success in the business takes us, Amway surely finds a way to make its deserving IBOs feel like they're always on top of the world!

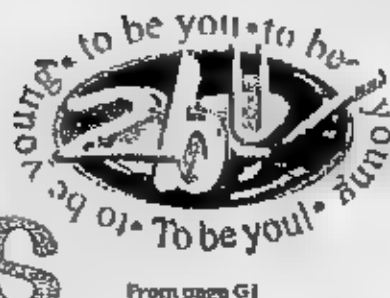


The freedom to pursue a better life.
Amway
will show you the way.

Amway is more than an income opportunity, a company, or products. It's about putting people in control of their lives. Linking them to others who share their goals, supporting them in their achievements, and connecting them to a better way of life. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from. All that matters is that you desire to make life better for yourself and for others. Be an Independent Business Owner now. We will support you with the best quality products and recognition that will set you along the path to success. Call Amway at 633-AMWY (633-2699) for GMA or 1-800-1888-AMWY (1-800-1888-2699) toll-free for areas outside GMA.

Amway

HELPING PEOPLE LIVE BETTER LIVES.

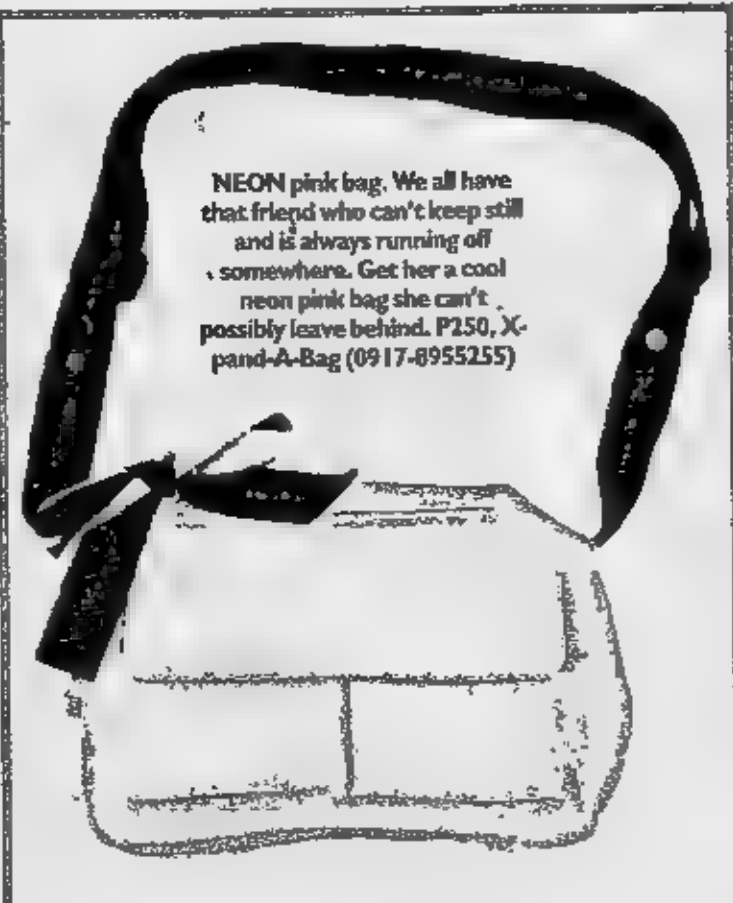


'Dalagita' delights

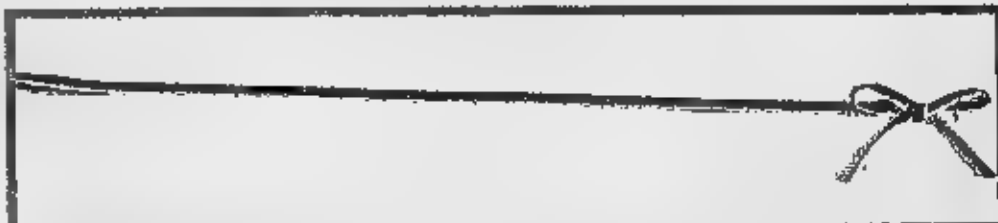
From page G1



CELL phone holder. Is your buddy hankering for a new phone? Try this cheaper yet cuter alternative. P250, Funky Finds



NEON pink bag. We all have that friend who can't keep still and is always running off somewhere. Get her a cool neon pink bag she can't possibly leave behind. P250, X-pand-A-Bag (0917-8955255)



STRIPED BOW BELT. This cherry-toned belt will spice up your buddy's boring khakis-and-white-tee look. P195, Shang



THE DOG PENCIL CASE. Your classmate keep filching your precious pens? With this adorable bag buddy, she'll never forget her pens at home again. P180, Pendants

I'm dreaming
of a white (or shiny silver,
gold, green, pink or blue)
Christmas...



With a winning combination of storage and portability, an intuitive user interface, and seamless integration with iTunes for Mac and Windows, iPod and iPod mini offer the ultimate in portable digital music players.

Enjoy up to 2 years' peace of mind with hardware coverage plus technical support via phone, email or web with the AppleCare Protection Plan for your iPod.

Suggested Retail Price:
iPod 20GB PhP 18,780 / 40GB PhP 25,610
iPod mini PhP 15,740
AppleCare Protection Plan PhP 3,500

Authorized Resellers:

Manila: Alderson-Avanti, Asonet, Ambassador, Apple Center, Atlantic, Astropoles, Astrovision, AV Surfer, Best Mobile, Columbia, Contender, CompLink, DataView, Electronics Boutique, E-Hub, Electroworld, Games & Gadgets, Global, Infonet, L&L, MicroStation, Mobile, Nike Forum, Nike Women, IT Computer, O-Max, Video Odyssey, palmOne, PodCentral, PC Express, PC Quarter, PC Supplies, PC World, Silicon Valley, The Outlet Store, Triad Computer, True Value, Villman, Welcor, Yntel, 5th Avenue
Northern Luzon: Baguio, Exponent Enterprises, UNICOM, Dagupan, WOW! Mobile and Gadgets
Visayas: Cebu, Games, Audionet, AV Surfer, Sultiz, CBX Corporation, Electroworld, JUNEK, Lifestyle and Price Living, My Ideal Service Center, Silicon Valley, Thinking Tools, Inc., Bacolod, BCG Enterprises, DataLink Technologies, Inc. (D-L), Concept Computer, Delta Merchandising, Mindanao, Cagayan, Da Oro Quality Appliance Center, Unipace Device, Central Warehouse, Chills, Champs, Columbia Computer, Digital Interface, Electroworld, Metro Plaza, RJ Homes, Silicon Valley, Thinking Tools, Gemnet System, Columbia Computer Market, On the Computer, Zambanga, Shoppers' Mart, Inc.

*Selected branches only



GREEN PAW PRINT SOCKS. Indulge your friend's animal-loving craze by slipping her feet into some paw prints. P40, Pendants



NOTEPADS. So the seatmate you love passing notes to in class can scribble her replies in style! P140, Rina Albert Arts & Designs, PowerBooks



"THE CLIQUE," a novel by Lisi Harrison. If she loved "Mean Girls," she'll definitely devour this fun read! P366, Fully Booked



MISTINE Lip and Cheek Tint. Dying to give your gal pal a makeover? Start her off with something fun and simple to bring out her pretty glow. P150, Mimi Cosmetics

Authorized Distributor

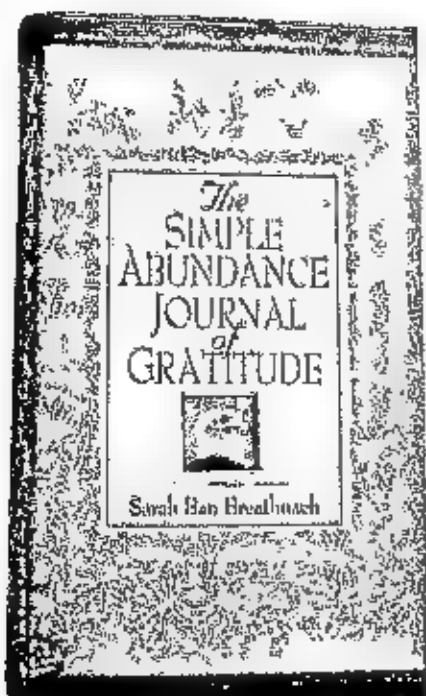


MILKMAKERMUSE

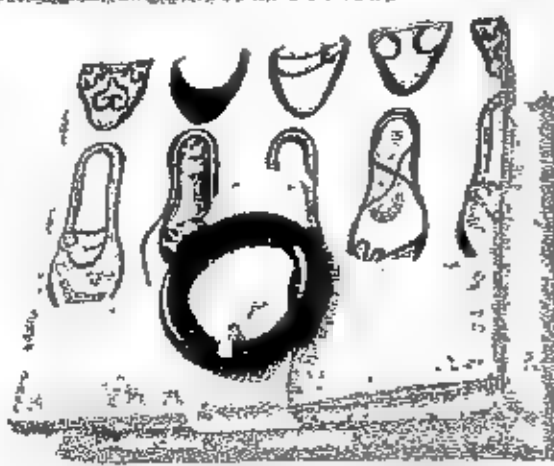
Seventeen selects

By Mia Fausto
Contributor

Whether you've been naughty or nice, you'll love Seventeen mag's present-perfect picks!

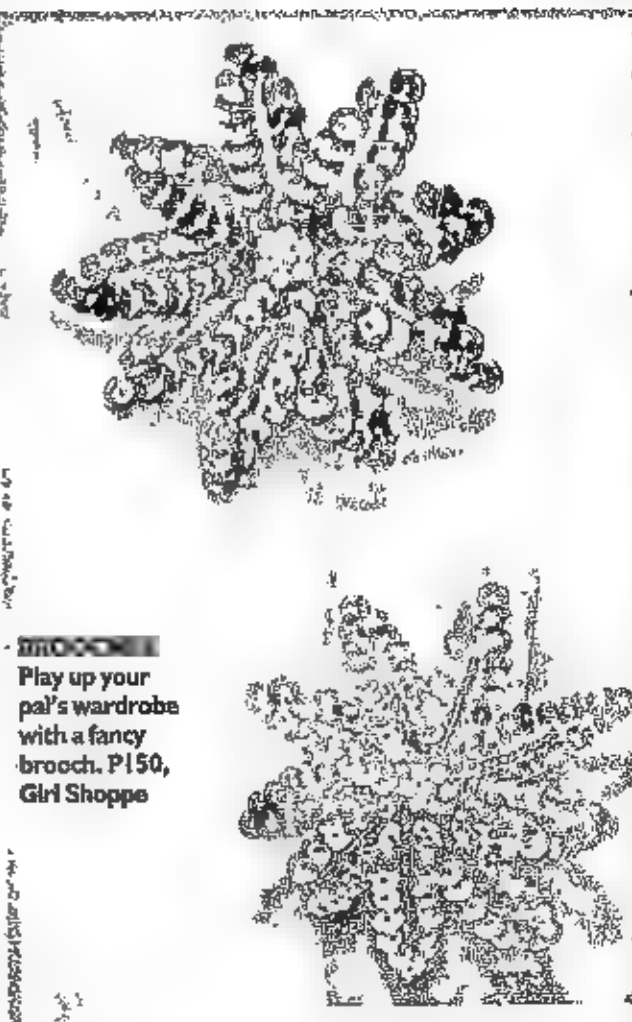


GRATITUDE Journal. For the girl who has everything, give her a gift to nurture her soul. P595, PowerBooks

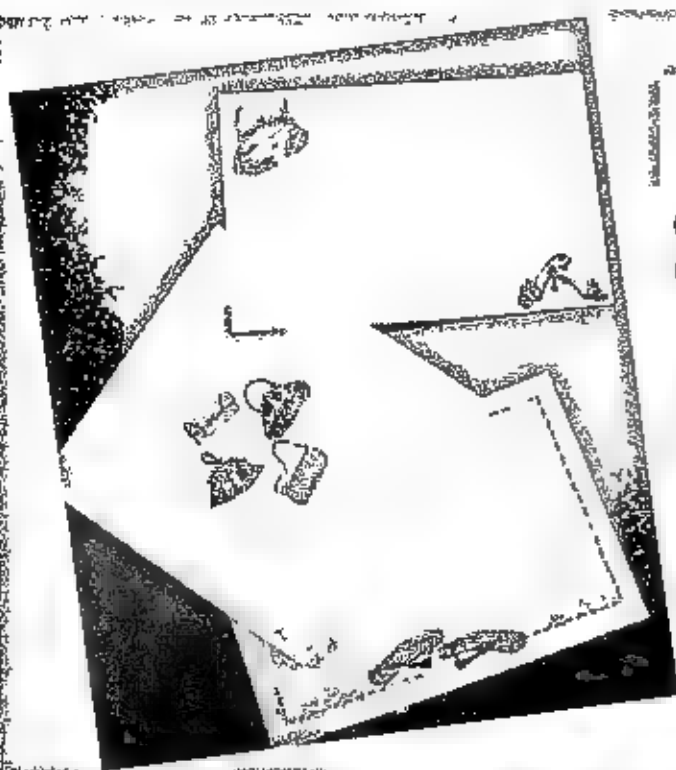


WALLET. Trade in her wallet for something more stylish. P150, Funky Finds

YELLOW TANK. Basic tank tops in yummy colors will always find space in her closet. P199.75, SM



BROOCH. Play up your pal's wardrobe with a fancy brooch. P150, Girl Shoppe



SHOE HOLDER. Let your boy buds tote this along to b-ball practices. P275, Make Room

NOTECARDS. Pretty notecards are something friends would love to have but won't exactly splurge on. (It's even cooler if they're personalized!) Assorted notecards, about P120-250, PowerBooks



BAG. This quirky bag puts the fun in functional. P308, to order from Betti Bags, 0917-5349621



WASTE BIN. Keep his room—or his car—well-accessorized. P89.75, SM Home World

Pay NO JOINING FEE

from December 15-17



Last chance to take advantage of our 2004 rates!

Visit any of our 10 world-class health clubs today!

ABS-CBN 413 0888
ALABANG 771 0828
FORT BONIFACIO 819 0000
GREENHILLS 725 4592
LIBIS 421 4220

MAKATI 813 0763
ROBINSONS METRO EAST 646 0000
CEBU (newly opened) (032) 234 2222
ORTIGAS (opens soon) 633 0000
FITNESS FIRST PLUS 845 3480

Fitness First

www.fitnessfirst.com.ph

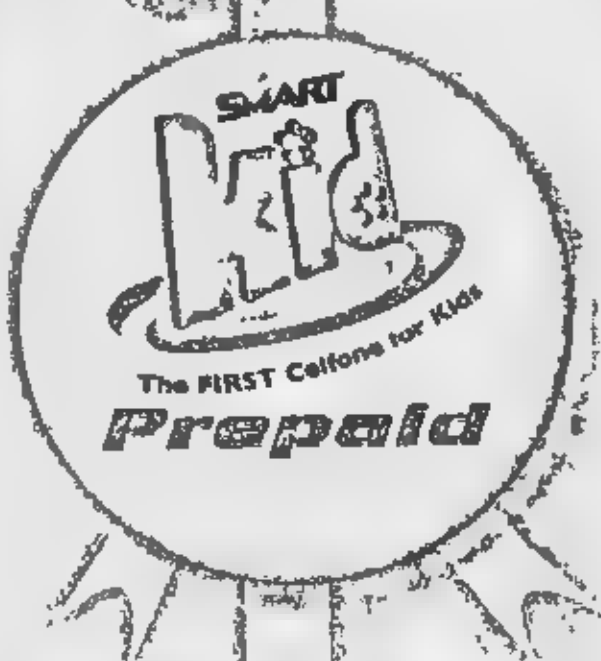
Your friends from

SESAME STREET

are only a
download away

Sesame Workshop® Sesame Street® and associated characters, trademarks and design elements are owned and licensed by Sesame Workshop. © 2004 Sesame Workshop. All rights reserved.

Wholesome fun and entertainment are always near with SMART Kid

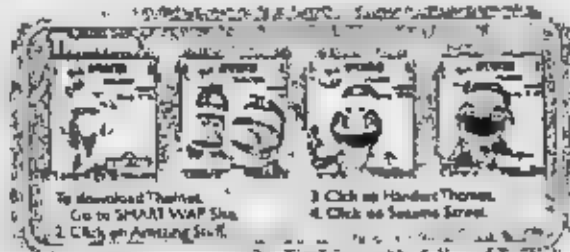


You can help, too!

When you purchase Sesame Street products, you are supporting the education of children at home and around the world.



Catch the Sesame Street 35th Year Celebration at the World Trade Center, Pasay City on December 23, 2004 from 11:00AM - 7:00PM.

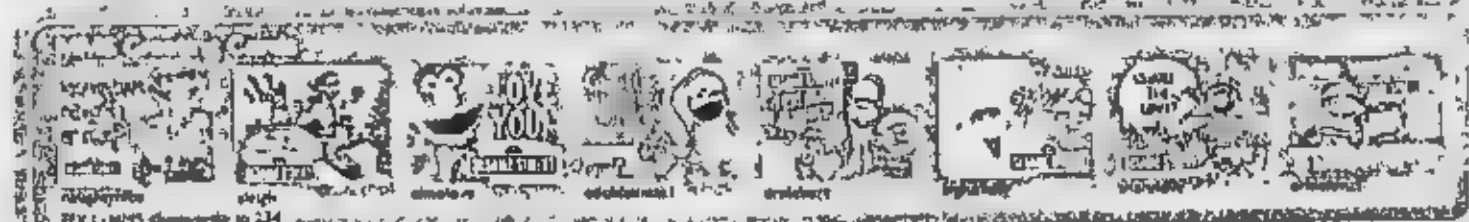
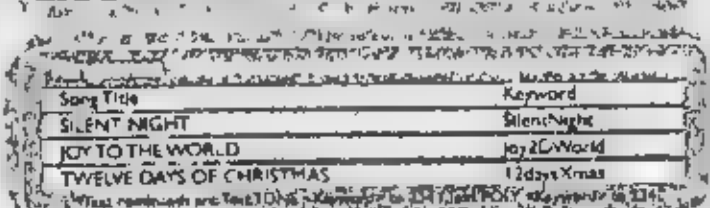
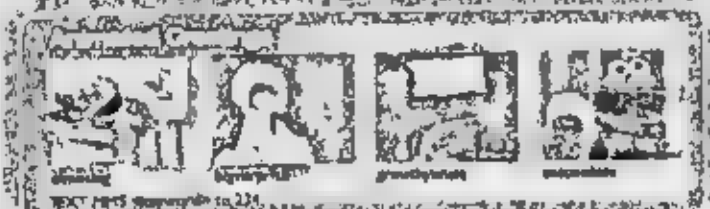
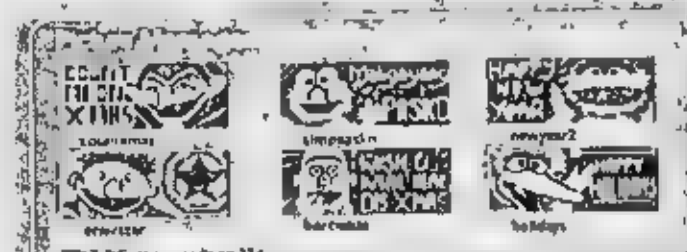
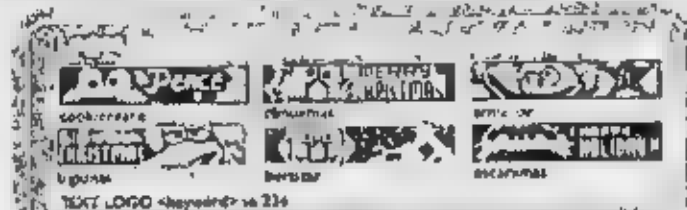


Text

SESAME

to

234



Download any Sesame Street content and get a chance to win a brand new Nissan X-trail SUV. Proms runs from Oct. 1, 2004 - Jan. 5, 2005. For DTI-NCR Permit No. 2177, Series of 2004.

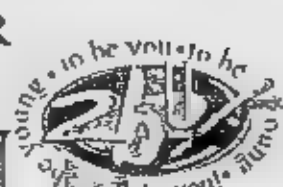
Downloads available to all SMART subscribers. Logos, Picture Messages, Ringtones and MMS images are P15.00 each. Text messages cost P2.50 each.

For every SMART Kid Prepaid line activation to SMART Kid Prepaid, please purchase a 1000 P15.00 Prepaid Recharge Card. For DTI-NCR Permit No. 2177, Series of 2004.





LIFESTYLE



Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Biz Whiz

THE ENTREPRENEUR'S
Success Kit, Fully Booked,
Power Plant Mall

Compiled by Happy David
2bU Correspondent



REMIND them to have fun while learning the ropes of business. Cashflow board game, P14,995, Hobbes

WHAT makes an entrepreneur? Focus. Courage. Creativity. The ability to see opportunity. Aggressiveness. Good people skills. Some say it's entrepreneurs that will save this country. Equip them with the basic tools now.

BIZ WHIZ H4

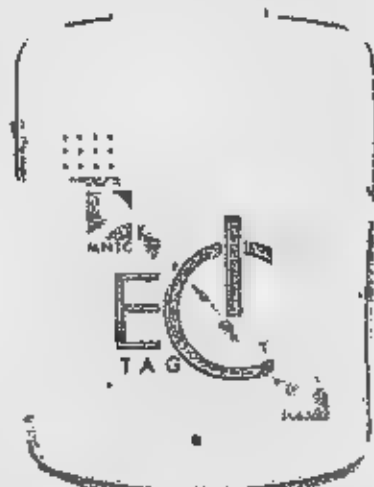


CELEBRATE their first checkbook with this colored leatherette holder/wallet from Get Happy, P300, Runtan's U, Makati.

PHOTOS BY HAPPY DAVID

Your Passport To Privilege

Introducing the EC Tag
at the new NLE.

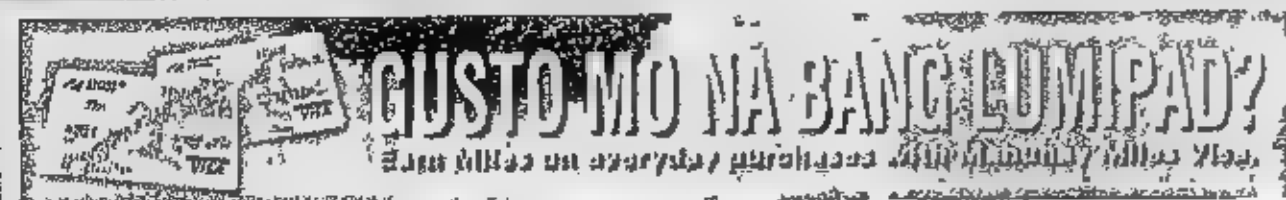


Experience privileged travel with the EC Tag.
The latest cashless, hassle-free, electronic payment
system at the new NLE.

No coins. No queues. It's EC.



Visit any of the NLE Customer Service Centers
now or call (632) 580 8910/ (632) 687 6682/ (632)
637 6682 or email at customer_service@mntc.com



Call 751-8000 to apply.

HSBC
The world's local bank



ON AIZ: Purple and black beaded corset, Patis Tesoro. Red dress (used as a skirt), P995, Karimaden. Made to order fabric and ribbon necklace with hand-sewn acrylic crystals from Happy David



BLACK and white gown with multicolored embroidery, Patis Tesoro. White jacket, Karimaden. Brooches, necklaces and chandelier earrings from Get Happy



WHITE corset and emerald green skirt, Patis Tesoro. Pearl necklace, stylist's own

Text and styling by Bianca Consunji
2b11 Correspondent
Photos by Jake Verzosa
CO-STYLISTS: ARIE ALZON AND HAPPY DAVID

LOOKING for an interesting holiday outfit? Eschew the Santa Claus look imported from the North Pole (the hat is cute, but it gets pretty old after a while) and look for clothes inspired by Philippine Christmas.

Pair sheer fabrics in jewel colors with crystal accessories to capture the festive feel of Pampanga lanterns. If you prefer the simplicity of the parol, choose clothes with clean, simple lines and flowing fabric. That way, you'll look more original than the candy canes on your Christmas tree.

E-mail biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Contact the photographer at jakee.blogspot.com



RED ruffled corset, Patis Tesoro. Red and gold Pampanga inspired skirt, Patis Tesoro. Beaded gold necklace, P995, and made-to-order fabric and ribbon necklaces with hand-sewn acrylic crystals by Happy David



PLAID gown with black lace detail by Patie Tesoro. Glass bead-and-cat's eye sea urchin necklace, made to order by Happy David



RAY and black halter, P695, and black bolero, Details Trading. Orange skirt from Patie Tesoro. Earrings, model's own

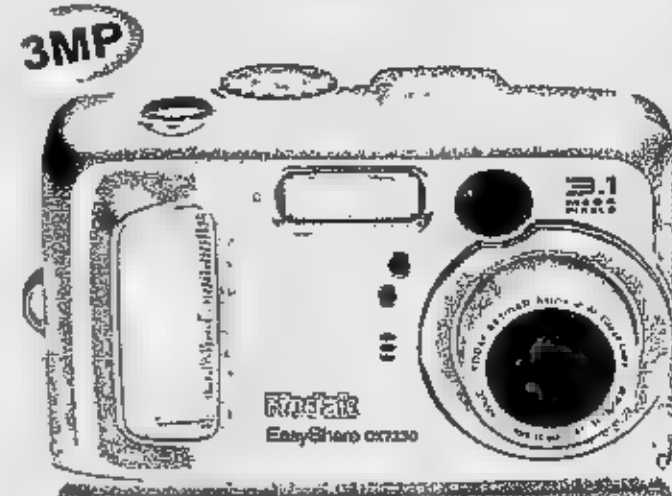
Eschew the Santa Claus look imported from the North Pole and go for clothes inspired by Philippine Christmases

Models: Michelle Quizon for Details Trading and Alza Twaño. Makeup by Geollette Esguerra (0915-5426790). Abby Puzon (0917-8586585) and Happy David (0917-8106274).

SPECIAL THANKS TO MAYOR LITO ATENZA, ERIC CHAN, AND THE CITY OF MANILA. SHOT IN THE PALATE CHURCH, PLAZA RAJA-SULAYMAN, BAY WALK, ROXAS BOULEVARD AND THE MCARTHUR BRIDGE

Kodak EasyShare digital camera

Now it's easy to own one.



CX 7330

- 3X Optical Zoom
- 3.3 Digital Zoom
- Continuous Digital Video with Audio

before P 11,995.00
NOW P 9,995.00



CX 7430

- 3X Optical Zoom, 4X Digital Zoom
- Continuous Digital Video with Audio Recording and Playback
- 9 Scene and Colour Modes

before P 15,495.00 NOW P 13,495.00

4MP



5MP



DX 7590

- 10X Optical Zoom, 3X Digital Zoom
- Professional Quality Schneider-Kreuznach Variogon Lens
- Creative Controls including Program, Aperture and Shutter Priority, Manual Control

5MP



P 29,995.00
with free 128 MB Memory Card

Kodak Hotlines:
636-9600 for Metro Manila,
1-800-1888-9600 Toll Free for Provincial Areas

Go to the
KODAK DIGITAL CAMERA MALL TOUR
and bring out the brilliance of life

Check out the latest digital cameras from Kodak, on-the-spot muralists and body painters, and our Kodak celebrity digital picture gallery. At the Ground Floor Makati Mall, Glorietta 3 from December 15, 2004 to January 1, 2005.

Participating Dealers: 5th Avenue • CompLink • Island Photo • Kameraworld • PC Corner • Vilman

st rmall

Tel. No. 718.1886

MALL TOURS

- 4, Saturday
Enrique Marcos
- 12, Sunday
Jerome Abalos
- 14, Tuesday
Francis Magalona

COMPETITIONS

- 5, Sunday
Christmas Tree Making
- 10-12, Friday to Sunday
6th Phil. Full Contact Sports National Championship
- 11, Saturday
Caroling Cheers Grand Finals
- 18, Saturday
United Pitbull Club: Battle of the Champions
- 19, Sunday
Modelo 2004

MINI-CONCERTS

- 10, Friday
Perfect Rhythm
- 16, Thursday
Ramp and Rhythm in Yuletide
- 18, Saturday
A Night of Carols feat. Caroling Cheers Winners

SHOWS & ACTIVITIES

- 25, Saturday
Christmas Magic Show
- 30, Thursday
Jugglers and Acrobats
- Every Wednesday & Friday
Acoustic Nights

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

- 24, Friday
Meet and Greet Santa

METROPOLIS

Tel. No. 850.3845

MALL TOURS

- 8, Wednesday
Francis Magalona
- 15, Wednesday
Jerome Abalos
- 19, Sunday
Enrique Marcos

COMPETITIONS

- 5, Sunday
- Belen Making
- On The Spot Christmas Card Making Contest
- 16, Thursday
Caroling Cheers Grand Finals

MINI-CONCERTS

- 3, Friday
Perfect Rhythm
- 22, Wednesday
A Night of Carols feat. Caroling Cheers Winners
- 26, Sunday
Ramp and Rhythm in Yuletide

SHOWS & ACTIVITIES

- 12, Sunday
Nestle Presents: Tyrone Perez and Sheryn Regis
- Christmas Magic at Starland
- 19, Sunday
Funkids Christmas Party
- 25, Saturday
Character Theme Host Show
- 30, Thursday
Christmas Magic Show

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

- 24, Friday
Meet and Greet Santa

st rmall

Tel. No. 872.5249

MALL TOURS

- 4, Saturday
Jerome Abalos
- 14, Tuesday
Enrique Marcos

COMPETITIONS

- 5, Sunday
Lantern Making
- 11, Saturday
Caroling Cheers Grand Finals

MINI-CONCERTS

- 12, Sunday
Ramp and Rhythm in Yuletide
- 16, Thursday
A Night of Carols feat. Caroling Cheers Winners
- 23, Thursday
Perfect Rhythm

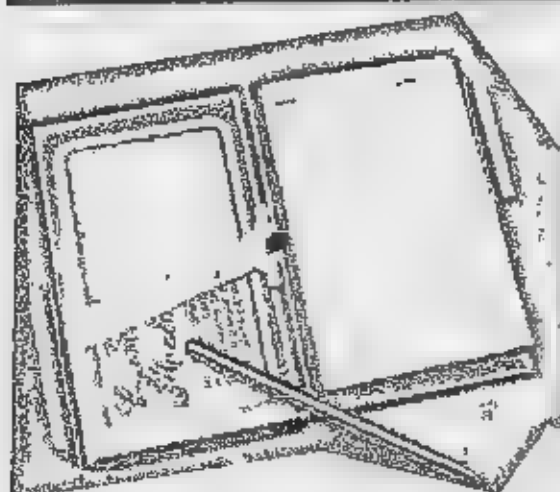
SHOWS & ACTIVITIES

- 4, Saturday
Friendster's Grand Eyeball
- 18, Saturday
Holly Harpists from Canada
- 25, Saturday
Jugglers and Acrobats Show
- 30, Thursday
Ron Michael's World of Magic
- Every Friday
Spectacular Fireworks Display with Live Bands
- Every Wednesday
Ladies' Night at Mark's Sports Bar
- Nightly
NBA Nights at Mark's Sports Bar

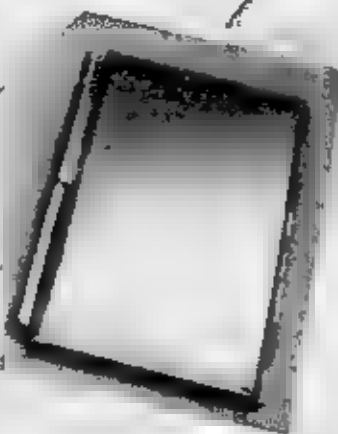
HOLIDAY SPECIAL

- 24, Friday
Meet and Greet Santa

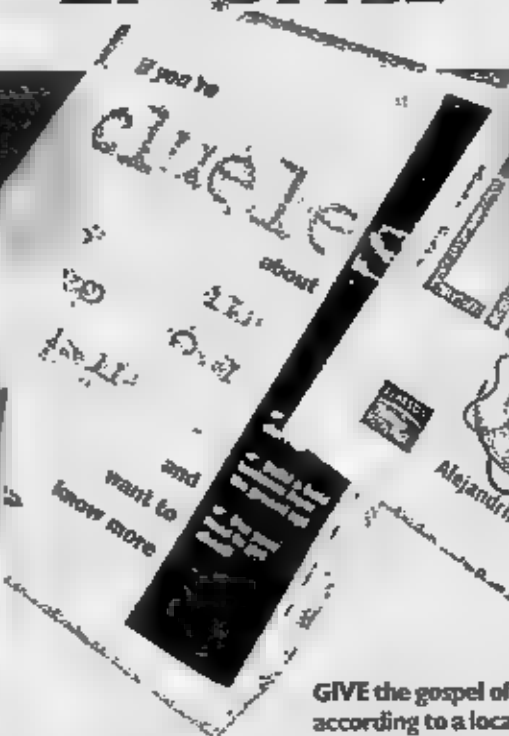
BizWhiz



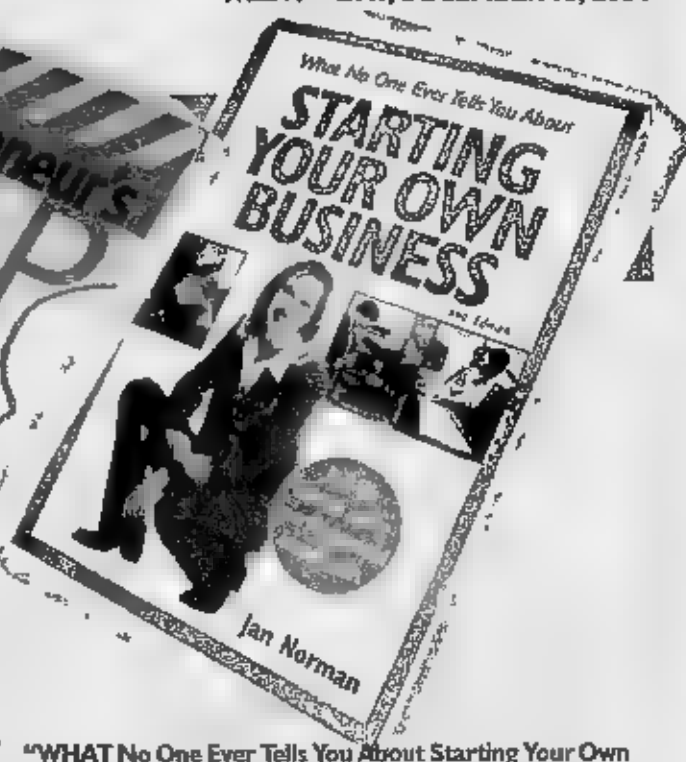
CALLING card holder, Fully Booked, Power Plant Mall



"IF YOU'RE Clueless About Starting Your Own Business and Want to Know More," Seth Godin, P895, PowerBooks



GIVE the gospel of entrepreneurship according to a local guru: AJM professor Alejandro J. Ferreria's "Entrepreneur's Helpline." A perfect resource for practicing and aspiring entrepreneurs. P675, PowerBooks



"WHAT No One Ever Tells You About Starting Your Own Business," Jan Norman, P1,045, PowerBooks. Real-life start-up advice from 101 successful entrepreneurs. Combines practical and straightforward how-to's with interesting and memorable success stories.

Be 0% dependent on wires. Pay less with 0% interest.

If you want a wireless notebook that lets you do everything - including saving money - the Compaq Presario 2241AP Notebook is just what you've been waiting for. Powered by Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology and Microsoft® Windows® XP Home OS, this notebook is enhanced with full wireless connectivity and processes all of your applications more efficiently. It's memory can also be increased to nearly decadent amounts. Plus, with a longer battery life that comes with the optional 8-cell battery configuration, this lightweight powerhouse won't tire before you do. And that could be a long time indeed, with Apple iTunes installed. It lets you import and organize music files from your CD to your computer and vice versa, create playlists, rate tracks and more. Hurry, visit participating Compaq Presario Resellers from November 23 to December 31, 2004 and get 0% interest on BPI credit card and Citibank credit cards 12 month deferred payment schemes. Because the Compaq Presario 2241AP Notebook is the savvy way to spoil yourself on the go.



Compaq Presario 2241AP Notebook

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725**
- Intel® Wireless LAN 802.11b/g
- Intel® 855GM Chipset
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 38.1cm (15-inch) XGA TFT display
- 60GB HDD
- DVD Writer (DVD+RW)
- 512MB DDR SDRAM memory
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- High speed 56kbps modem
- One-year, Worldwide Limited Warranty
- (2MB L2 cache, 1.60GHz, 400MHz FSB)

Php8,329.17

per month for 12 months;
0% interest FREE
(provided that the whole monthly bill is paid)

Enjoy 12 months 0% interest when you buy the Compaq Presario 2241AP or 2218AP Notebook with your BPI credit card or Citibank credit cards now.

Promotion valid from 23 November - 31 December 2004.

Compaq recommends
Microsoft® Windows®
XP Professional



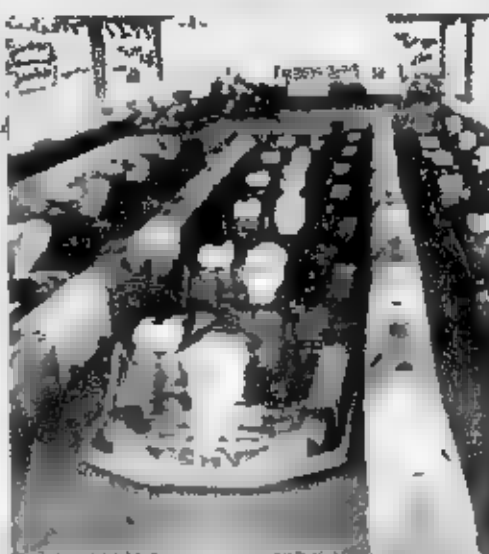
Compaq Presario 2218AP Notebook

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 705**
- Intel® Wireless LAN 802.11b/g
- Intel® 855GM Chipset
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
- 15-inch XGA TFT display
- 40GB HDD
- DVD/CD Writer Combo drive
- 512MB DDR SDRAM memory
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- High speed 56kbps modem
- One-year, Worldwide Limited Warranty
- (1MB L2 cache, 1.50GHz, 400MHz FSB)

Php7,495.83

per month for 12 months; 0% interest FREE
(provided that the whole monthly bill is paid)

Promotion runs from 23 November to 31 December, 2004.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5850 Series of 2004.



READY, set, go! A Speedzone race is so exciting, he won't even notice you gave him a gift.

From Santa to Scrooge

By Gmeleen Tamboc
2BU! Correspondent

DO we even give anything to the perpetual Scrooge? The instinctive thing is to completely eliminate him from our list. But even the most hardcore Christmas hater would appreciate a thing or two. So here are some gift suggestions for people who don't like gifts:

1. A no-nonsense Christmas card, definitely not of the popup or musical types.
2. A framed, blowup picture of him. He may not like gifts, but you'd bet he'd hang this one on the wall.
3. A Sun Cellular 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited SIM. Who can resist unlimited calls?
4. Gift certificates from Rustan's, Mercury Drug or SM. Very practical gifts for very practical persons.
5. A videoke showdown at Red Box Karaoke. With singing as our national pastime, nothing should go wrong with this present.
6. A round of drinks at his favorite watering hole—but this works only if you like his company, and vice-versa.
7. Art lessons at the Ayala Museum. Bring out his artistic side by signing him up for sessions in drawing, oil painting, sculpture, paper making and origami. P3,000 for four sessions and P6,000 for eight sessions.
8. A go-kart race at Speedzone. A P600 gift check for a 12 minute session includes racing gear and a briefing. Call 8819683.
9. A donation to his favorite charity. Just because he doesn't like getting gifts doesn't mean he can't give one. There's an acknowledgement letter that will be sent straight to him if you give to, say, Caritas Manila in his name. Visit www.caritas.org.ph.
10. A good deed. Sometimes, the best gifts in life are free. Offer to take his dog for a walk, water his plants or do his errands for a day. You can even do Christmas shopping for him, if you are crazy enough to go to the malls this December.

ABS-CBN

BANTAY
BATA

163

MAKE a contribution in his name to the ABS-CBN Foundation for the kids of Bantay Bata.

COMPAQ



invent

BUY NOW

Call (632) 867-3557, or Toll-free 1-800-1441-6688

Click www.hp.com.ph

Visit Your favorite HP reseller from Nov. 23 to Dec. 31, 2004.

PARTICIPATING COMPAQ PRESARIO RESELLERS: ABC Computers 726-8807, 752-7659 to 60 • Accent Micro / PC Live 771-0770, 833-1722 • Coloville Computer Solutions 833-9318, 924-2533 • Computer Marketing 607-3888, 607-4444 to 45 • E-commerce 812-3868, 927-9525 • Silicon Valley 833-1723/24, 807-8372 • TCA - The Computer Authority 883-1684, 870-6090 • Villanov Computer Systems 883-0532 / 33, 926-7322 © 2004 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. All rights reserved. Intel, Intel Inside, Intel Inside logo, Pentium, Celeron, Intel Centrino and Intel Centrino logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Microsoft and Windows are U.S. registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Other products mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. * Intel's numbering is not a measurement of higher performance. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30a.m. to 5:30p.m.



MOBILE
TECHNOLOGY

to be you. to be
26! **STYLE**
 Text us your feedback on your life name!
 For feedback, e-mail us at
 lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
 My message on 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

FREE
 "THE COMPLETE METRO
 'LUTONG BAHAY' GUIDE TO
 THE SOUTH BEACH DIET"

SBD Lutong-Bahay
 Guide, a must-have

Also presented by
 San Miguel
 PureFoods

South Beach Diet holidays

By Tammy David
 26! Correspondent

PERHAPS your mom, friend, or even your dad is itching to try out the current fitness rage, the South Beach Diet (SBD), but don't know where to begin.

Well, here are some SBD-related things to check out, from the original book itself to "lutong bahay" specials to the numbers of SBD chefs to call for that delicious but healthy *noche buena* feast.

The South Beach Diet: The Delicious, Doctor-Designed, Foolproof Plan for Fast and Healthy Weight Loss by Arthur Agatston (P335) available in National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

The South Beach Diet Cookbook: More than 200 Delicious Recipes That Fit the Nation's Top Diet, by Arthur Agatston hard-bound (P1,275) softcover (P975) available in National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

South Beach Diet Good Fats/Good Carbs Guide: The Complete and Easy Reference for All Your Favorite Foods, by Arthur Agatston (P335) available in National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

Call PowerBooks at Greenbelt 4, 7576428 to 29; Alabang Town Center, 8505562, 8505155, Megamall 6352898 to 99, Glorietta 3, 7527067.

Metro's Complete South Beach Diet "Lutong Bahay" Recipes. Free with every purchase of Metro magazine's November 2004 issue with Jencho Rosales and Ceane Lopez on the cover (P100).

Call ABS-CBN Publishing Circulation Office, 4152272 loc. 4657-58; Mag.net (4100995).

South Beach Diet meals

Florabel Co. P 1,000 a day, for three meals and two light snacks. Pick up in Quezon City, Greenhills, Ortigas and Makati. Deliveries in Makati. Call 0917-8117334.

Cibo: P1,000 a day, for three meals and snacks in between meals. Pick-up in all Cibo outlets (Glorietta 4, Shangri-La Plaza, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, ABS-CBN and Power Plant Rockwell), Pepato in Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center and Café Bola (Greenbelt 3, Coliseum Circle, Araneta Center). Call 9133965 or 9123705.

Allan Jose: P6,500 for Phases 1 and 2 (two weeks), three meals and one snack per day. Delivery every Sunday for two Sundays. Twenty-one meals will last one whole week. Call 0917-8985443, e-mail allan_boi23@yahoo.com

Yogi Leyretana: P600 per pick-up, for three Mediterranean-inspired meals with light snack. Call 0917-7580774, 0922-5306053

SBD Support: Arrange for an appointment with a doctor before starting on the diet (a must!). Call Nadene Tengco of Health Weight Management 0917-2044356.

Make time for "one sumptuous Sunday lunch" in South Beach-friendly restos like Café Bola (757BOLA) or Brazil, Brazil at The Power Plant Mall (8990957).

Subscribe to southbeachdiet.com, with membership. Perks include weight tracker, Nutrition Tool and Meal Planner

Here are some SBD-related things to check out, from the original book itself to 'lutong bahay' specials to chefs' numbers

DUNKIN' DONUTS

Christmas Free!

FREE! 12 Munchkins when you buy 6 Minors

FREE! 6 pcs. Choco Bang when you buy a dozen Dunkin' Donuts

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Panasko ng Bayan

SKIN BLEMISHES? ALL GONE WITH IPL!

The favorite skin treatment of the stars is now within your reach!

THIS IS THE BEST OFFER YOU'VE EVER WAITED FOR! 40% OFF
 on all IPL treatments!
December 15 to 20, 2004 only!

It's what your skin is looking for! The IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment from Facial Care Centre will banish your bothersome blemishes to reveal a clearer skin tone. It is proven effective in erasing your freckles, age spots and spider veins on anywhere that skin imperfections show. You, too, can be among the many women who enjoy its excellent results and experience the beauty of having blemish-free skin.

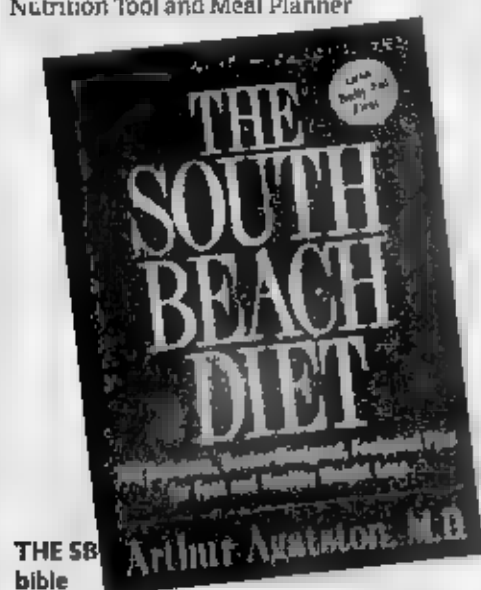
Don't miss this fantastic skincare treat only from Facial Care Centre. IPL it really works!

**Facial
 care
 centre**

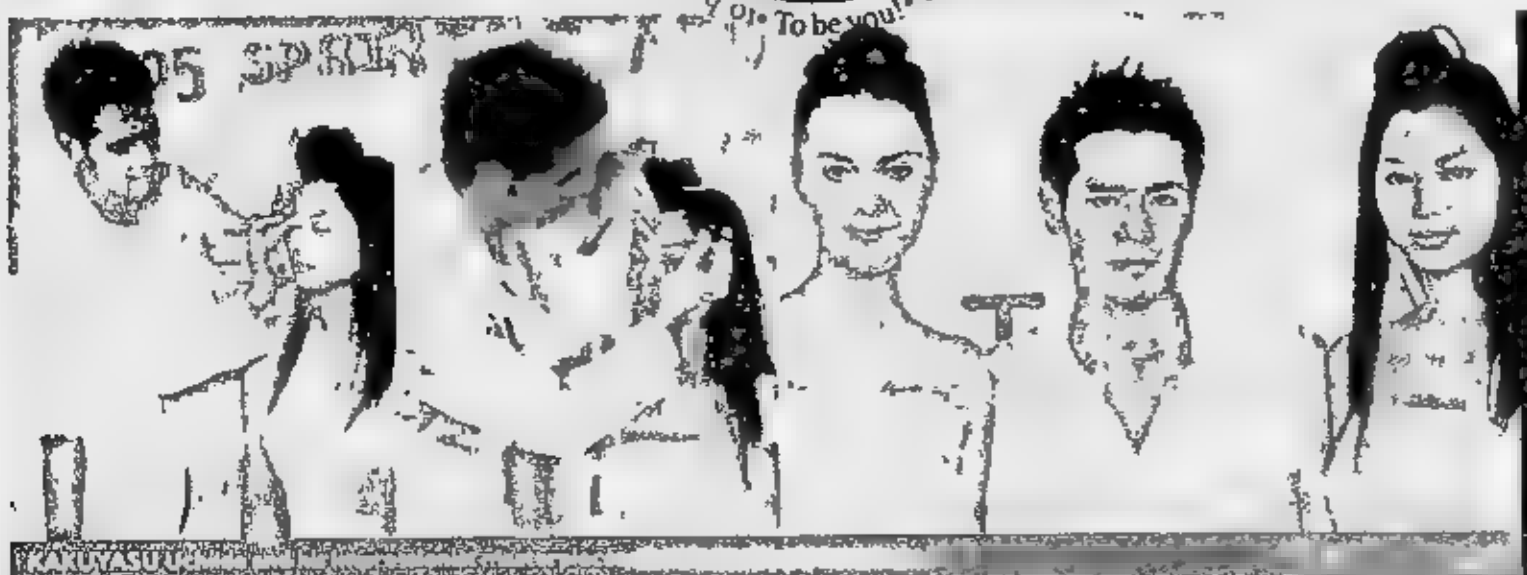
CALL 892-SKIN (7546)

Where Beautiful Skin Happens

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
ORTIGAS 20/F Robinsons Equitable Tower
QUEZON CITY 3/F Cedar Exec. Bldg.
BINONDO Unit 9-1 City Plaza Tower
ALABANG 2/F Calbank-Franchise Bldg.
SMALL 3/F Pinatubo Square Plaza
CONGRESSIONAL 2/F Q Plaza Bldg.
PAMPANGA TEL 981-3404 3/F Dan's Millg. Bldg.
CEBU TEL 233-7431 Unit 1203 Keppel Centre



THE SBD bible



After the storm

All went straight to their favorite party jaunts and treated themselves to a post-storm blow-out

WITH the scene in full swing—what with the daily grind of events and happenings that characterize the Christmas rush—even typhoon Yoyong had to blow his winds somewhere else.

Party demizens will always look for a hot happening to keep them warm in this season of chilled everything. But I am happy to point out that people have a conscience and still do their part for the underprivileged others.

A good percentage of party people went around soliciting donations for the victims of the typhoons. At Government, dance club demimopdes were giving donations to ABS-CBN's Banray Kaikasan Foundation right after they partied the night away. Now, isn't that the right way to celebrate?

At the height of the storms, BMW canceled the launching of its One Series at The Fort. Gucci also postponed its event. But the NU107 Rock Awards still pushed through. Oh well, rockers will be rockers. And NU107 made sure the World Trade Center was packed with Red Horse-chugging folks who head-banged to Bamboo and cheered or jeered the rock stars.

Bench launched its "Bench Time," its version of beautifully crafted metal watch-works at Glorietta. Rustan's launched Ermenegildo Zegna's new boutique and gave away neckties (expensive giveaways, but who are we to complain?)

Pretty, pretty

Pretty Fit and Beetle Bug had a reason to celebrate. They opened two new stores—one at the Alabang Town Center, and another in Shangri-La Plaza (their flagship is at Glorietta).

"I love Pretty Fit!" I overheard a couple of trendies who thought they looked like Manolos. M Café overflowed with martinis, Cibo's Margarita Pores made sure everyone was warm with a chocolate fondue station.

Pretty Fit owners Linda Tan and Jennie Chua donated to the storm victims. Now that's a really pretty thing to do.

A day before the storm, everything seemed fine. I even woke up early for a lunch affair, one that my buddy Tina Tinio was hosting for Shu Uemura's chief make-up artist from Tokyo, Kakuyasu Uchiide.

Now, I do not need any makeup tips, so I just savored the great company of cosmetics aficionados who all paid attention to Uchiide

San as if he was Einstein giving a lecture on the theory of relativity.

Brand managers and beauty editors never cease to amaze me. They always look fresh and perky. In a way, they are their brand's best image models.

But before getting the right endorser, one must hire the right product manager. So I think Tina is the brand manager. Just watching her walk the walk and talk the talk (Shu Uemura is in her every other deep-breathed sentence) would reveal to one why Shu Uemura has become the number one brand here in our shores.

Outside the beauty industry, the day after the storm, everybody seemed to have missed going out that all went straight to their favorite party jaunts and treated themselves a post-storm blow-out.

From Greenbelt to Eastwood, the place was packed with partyphiles all out to paint the town with their favorite color.

Temple was particularly packed, with Fridays being the top pick of the week for R&B crazy kids ready to dance the night away.

If you think these past few weekends were crazy, then think again. It's just the beginning. The Christmas season is upon us (as if I had to tell you) so brace yourselves for a super-duper blast.

Speaking of Christmas, for those who are in dire need of gifts, here's a suggestion. Instead of giving gifts that are bound to be recycled (or fruit cake, for that matter), why don't you just give "personal gift certificates?" These are GCs issued by yourself to different people, with the amount varying in terms of how well you love your friend.

It goes like this: "This certificate is issued to Jane de la Cruz from Tim Yap. Bearer of this gift certificate is entitled to a free hug/movie/massage/cell phone of her choice/shopping spree/trip around the world..."

Try it, it's personalized, and all you need to do is make a printout from your PC and send it out in a nice envelope.

Have a Super! season ahead.

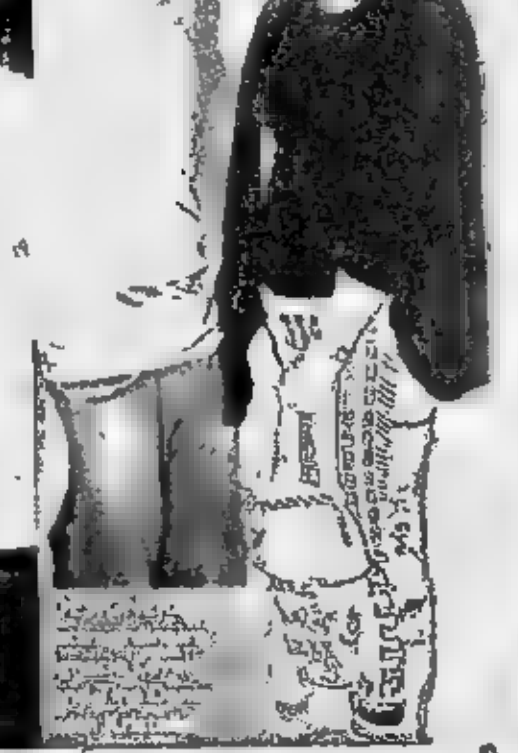
Shopaholics, unite!

For those of you who want to buy and buy—the buy-curious I call them—check out my favorite shopping buddy's new show on the Lifestyle Network.

Jenni Epperson lets the fashion can out of the bag and spills the magic shopping beans on the best buys in the show "Good Finds" starting tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. with replays on Saturdays, at 2 p.m., on Sky Cable channel 30 and Home Cable channel 26. Catch it, and just shop, shop, shop!



Tim Yap

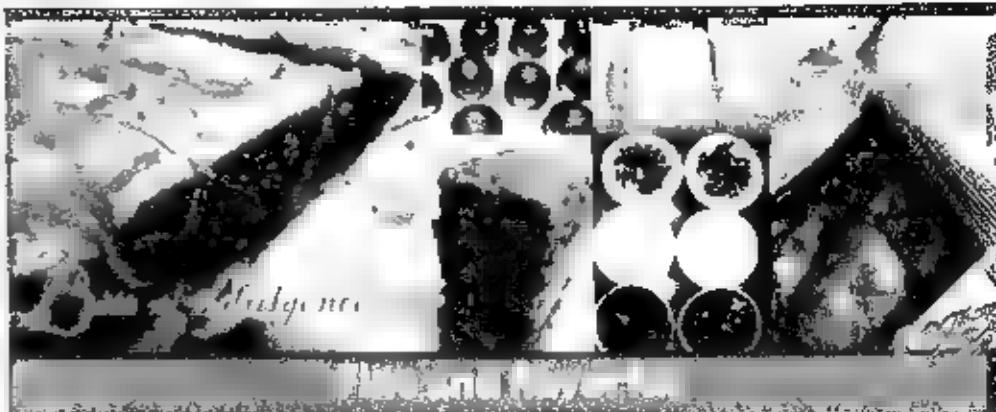




Ham: Lovingly homemade—a great alternative to overly commercial Christmas hams. P150/kg, Good Food (tel. 6451271—Baby Salumbides; 90 Sta. Ana Ext. St., Marikina East Subd., San Roque, Marikina City)

Food for the gods: Rich and chewy, loaded with nuts. P100/box of 10, Nola Desserts (0917-8312238, 0922-4733637 or 721-5360—Leony)

Fruit cake: The ultimate Christmas staple. P200 (small), Seasonal Favorites (0920-9604300)



Carrot cake: Moist and delicious, topped with cream-cheese frosting. P350 (nine inches), Nola Desserts (0922-4733637), P175 (small) Seasonal Favorites (0920-9604300)

Valrhona chocolate cake: Made from the finest French chocolate. P80/individual size, P800/8", Reggie's (8344812, 0917 539-2667, or e-mail reg_esp@yahoo.com)

Lemon Squares: Tasty and tangy citrus bars. About P65/small box. Box may be combination of fudge and butterscotch brownies. AnnieBee

(0919-723 1885)

Date Walnut Bars: Indulgence in a bar. P95/box of six, Daddy Bakes (7264707, 7215555)

Cheesecakes: Truly divine. P370/ Sampler Box of six mini-cups, P380 (9"). Flavors are Oreo, Blueberry, Classic and Vanilla, order from Just Craving (0917-8334100)

Apple Cake: Rich and packed with apple goodness. P125 from Lucille Vasquez-Chipongan (3730395 or 9421113)



Chocolate cake: Topped with rich chocolate shavings. P700, Beanhoppers, Robinsons-Navaliches

Butterscotch brownies: You can't restrain the urge to pop these chewy delights into your mouth. P50/box of eight, P100/box of 12. May be ordered along with yummy fudgy brownies, Casa de Maria (2599637 or 0918-8988376)

Crinkles: A luscious piece of bliss. P30/pack of 10, Chunks of Euphoria (9311301 or 0920-9023864)

Tagalogue Delight Bar: A delectable blend of cream cheese and chocolate. P280/box of 24, Nola Desserts (0922-4733637; www.noladesserts.tk)

Brownies: Divinely melts in your mouth. P95/box of six 3x1.5" brownies. Daddy Bakes (Cav. 0918-4427902 or 726-4707—Ji Reyes; 0918-5673973, 72155—Lindy Benedicto). Brownies also available from Casa de Maria, Chunks of Euphoria, AnnieBee

Goodie giveaways

Spread some Christmas cheer with these non-traditional takes on traditional goodies

Text and Photos by Zee Castro
24/7 Correspondent

SOME perceive Christmas treats as gifts as generic. But these little indulgences amid the holiday hum definitely wouldn't go unappreciated.



coffee and tea fixes

Cinnamon roll: A great substitute to overpriced mall-based cinnamon rolls. P12/piece or P144/box of 12, Araullo Pastries (34 Scout de Guia, QC: 3732777 or 0917 8110413)

Banana chocolate chip muffins: Moist and delicious up to the last bite. P220/box of 12, Just Craving (09178334100; http://justcraving.blogspot.com)

Mariposa: These butterfly-

shaped treats are great with coffee. About P60/pack, Araullo Pastries (3732777), and Lucille Vasquez-Chipongan (3730395)

Banana bread: You get the entire loaf for the price of three café-bought slices. P120, Seasonal Favorites (0920-960 4300)

Cookies: Order from Nola Desserts and Lucille Vasquez-Chipongan (Chocochunk Cookies P90/pack of 10)

All products come in pretty Christmas packaging. Remember to order at least four days in advance. Inquire about discounted prices they may offer if you buy in bulk.

The biggest obstacle, however, is resisting the urge to just gobble up these treats yourself instead of spreading the gift-giving love around.

E-mail the author at zeeastro@yahoo.com

24/7 guide to tried and tested holiday treats

HERE are more delicious and affordable Christmas goodies that have that noncommercial, homemade taste.

If you plan to bring these treats to the season's get-together please resist the urge to pass them off as your own creations.

Bellicious Cookies (tel. 0918-2710087): chunky oatmeal cookies (with choice of walnut or chocolate chips) cranberry cookies, white chocolate chip cookies.

Classic Collections (7462773, 0917-6245892): Mocha sans rival,

Lemon torte. Rum cake, Oreo cheesecake, Banana cream pie.

Gingehros (3717308, 0917-3220926): Food for the gods, Banana cashew loaf, Classic cheese cupcake.

Flour Power (0917-9267930): Fruit cake, Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting, Super fudge brownie bars.

French Kiss (5318700, 0917-5413868, www.frenchkisspastries.com): sugar-free specialty

CELEBRATE IT!



Visit Hong Kong Now- Hong Kong WinterFest Package from US\$225*



Santa's Town is coming to Hong Kong this year and Santa wants you to join him for a special house-warming from 26 November 2004 to 2 January 2005. You're invited to a joyous celebration when Santa turns Central, a world renowned business district, into a festive Santa's Town. You'll find endless enjoyment at the Snowy Chapel, Santa's Lodge, Santa's Workshop, Giant Music Box, and of course, the Dazzling Christmas Tree. Take a stroll down the renowned Milestone Boulevard and don't forget to make a wish in Santa's Town.

What's more, stunning decorations and Christmas lighting will enhance the magnificent harbour view along the glorious skyline. And with the Hong Kong WinterFest Passport to Amazing Offers, your holiday will be packed with incredible bonuses at great stores and restaurants accredited by the Quality Tourism Services Scheme.

To enjoy this heart-warming season and avail of Cathay Pacific's "Visit Hong Kong Now- Hong Kong WinterFest Package" which includes:

- Roundtrip Economy Class air ticket on Cathay Pacific
- 2 Nights hotel accommodation on ROOM ONLY basis
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers by seat-in-coach

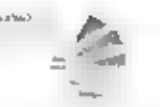
Terms and conditions: * Package must be purchased between 01 December 2004 and 11 March 2005. * Package valid only for travel departing Hong Kong from 01 December 2004 and 11 March 2005 only. (Travel must be completed by 11 March 2005. For same hotel, travel must be completed by 11 February 2005.) * Package is non-transferable, non-refundable, and non-refundable. * Taxes are included in a maximum of 2 days and maximum of 8 days stay. * Please refer to the package details for full terms and conditions. * The package is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed by Cathay Pacific Airways. * Any passenger who chooses to travel by air must book and pay for the package by 11 March 2005. * The package is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed by Cathay Pacific Airways. * The package is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed by Cathay Pacific Airways. * The package is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed by Cathay Pacific Airways.

* Please refer to the package details for full terms and conditions. For more details, contact your travel agent or Cathay Pacific: 82-7570000 (Hong Kong), 21-3111717 (Cebu) or through our general sales agent: 82-2218991

For more information about Hong Kong, please visit discoverhongkong.com



CATHAY PACIFIC
www.cathaypacific.com



HONG KONG

Best-baked Francophile goodies



100,000 victims need your help!

Operation Sagip Buhay

Needs:

- Food
- Canned goods
- Mineral water
- Sugar
- Iodized salt
- Rice

Non-Food:

- Blankets and mats
- Kitchen utensils
- Laundry and bath soap
- Mosquito nets
- Slippers
- Clothes
- Candles, matches, flashlight
- Water Container (Jerry Can)

Medicines:

- Vitamin C, Oral Rehydration
- Salts, Water Purifying Tablets
- Paracetamol

GOODS may be delivered to:
Camp Aguinaldo, Office of Civil Defense, Edeco
Catholic Media Network Office,
Xavier House No. 2367 Pedro Gil
Sta. Ana, Manila
Contact Person: Fr. Francis Lucas
or Mr. Sonny Jogillas (MDC)
Tel Nos.: 563-7321, 563-7313,
564-4480
Fax No. 563-7327
Email: sagipbuhay@yahoo.com

Philippine Daily Inquirer, China
Roces Avenue corner Yagna and
Mascordo St., Makati
Tel. No.: 887-8808 loc. 235

CASH DONATIONS may be
deposited to:
Any Bank of Philippine Islands
Branch Account Name: Sagip
Buhay Infanta Fund; Account
Number 3223-3892-35
Any Metrobank Branch Account
Name: Sagip-Buhay Infanta Fund;
Account Number 231-3-23129502-1

FOR OTHER AREAS:

Diocese of Cebu/Asian Social Action Center, please contact Bishop Socrates Benard, SSS, D.D.
Fr. Lito Parulan/Pa Juana • Tel. Nos.: (44)463-3848, 463-8368, (0917)3272125 (Fr.)

FOR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Please contact Mr. Nilit Mendoza, Asian Development Foundation • tel. nos. 632-1881 to 83; (0917)8391237

Partners:

Asian Development Foundation • Ayala Foundation • Philippine Daily Inquirer • Institute for Disaster Risk Management • Hands On Manila • United Laboratories • Catholic Media Network • Corporate Network for Disaster Response • Federation of Philippine-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Disaster Coordinating Council

IN A RICE-EATING country like the Philippines, French Baker has introduced quality and affordable European-inspired breads and pastries into the Filipino dining fare. Here are its top five products:

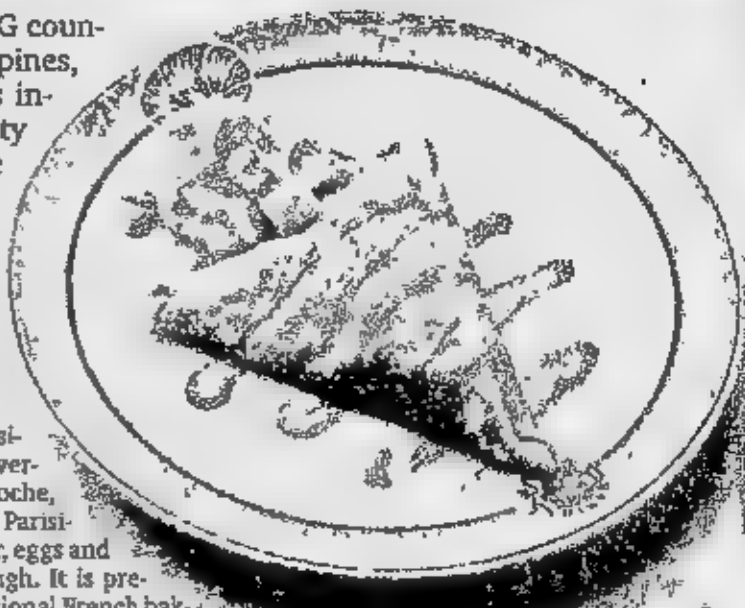
1. Cheese Parisienne—the Manila version of French Brioche, French Baker Cheese Parisienne uses fresh butter, eggs and sugar for its rich dough. It is prepared using the traditional French baking technique known as long fermentation. It has generous servings of French butter icing and mouthwatering grated cheese on top.

2. Muffins—varieties include blueberry, peach, cinnamon nut, lemon poppy seed, mocha walnut, and orange almond—aside from the basic cheese and choco.

3. Scones—a light, plain cake, quickly made and containing very little fat, and is usually eaten split open and spread with butter or a filling. French Baker also has scones in walnut and chocolate-chip variants.

4. Almond Croissant—the French croissant given a twist. The Frangipane cream on top with almond flakes can become a perfect afternoon tea party for two.

5. Crepes—also one of French Baker's must-tries. Freshly-prepared crepes in ham and cheese, apple cinnamon whipped cream, blueberry whipped cream, mango whipped cream, hazel nut choco or banana chocolate.



MANGO Crepe



SCONES

250+ guide to tried and tested holiday treats

From page B3

cakes, Chocolate Lust, Cloud Cake, Tiramisu
Kitchen's Best (5756012, 8120908), decadent cake with caramel sauce, lemon square, peanut butter bars, sugar-free fudgy walnut brownies.
Mrs. Howards (3734884, 4121682): burgito buns (herbed buns), baby cakes, cinnamon buns, macaroons

The Cookery (6350351, 0917-8122354), banana pie, petite vanilla bean parma cotta with fresh strawberries, petite ultimate chocolate cake

Tita Lann's (6313450, 6371448): ube ensaymadas, buco lychees salad, cinnamon roll, Implit

Zee Castro and Anna Rose Elcano

Dolce Vita

The privilege of being a woman
Shopping Discount Freedom
Don't miss it! Call 636-8700

BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN IS A DOLCE VITA

Apply-By-Phone at 636-8700 and get a P500 Nike Women or Nike Forum Discount Coupon.

The Philam Group of Companies offers you a full range of financial services
Life and General Insurance • Property & Casualty Insurance • Health Care Management Plan • Mutual Funds • Savings and Mortgage • Mutual Fund Investments • Property Development • Credit Cards • Insurance Processing Service • Insurance • Financial Advisory Service

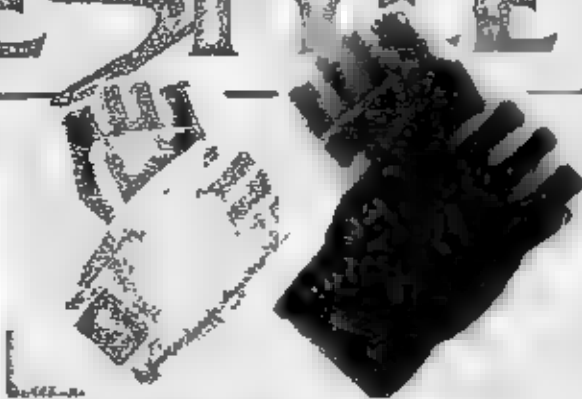
For feedback, e-mail us at lfestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

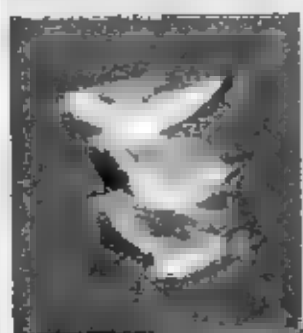
26U LIFESTYLE



NIKE Dry Fit Running Shirt. Perfect for breaking sweat while doing tai-bo, body jam or body pump. P895, Nike



FOR HIM, Nike Performance Training Gloves. For better weight grip while working out. P695, Nike. For her, Nike Lightweight Training Gloves. To prevent those soft and silky hands from getting callused. P645, Nike



FRESH TASTES,
THOUSAND MEALS,
AND ICE THAT DOESN'T
TASTE LIKE FISH.



Where do great meals begin? Well, we'd like to think at precisely Sub-Zero. After all, it's the place where dual refrigeration was born. Unlike ordinary refrigerators, the Sub-Zero has two separate compressors for the refrigerator and freezer. This technology ensures that temperature is independently controlled for each compartment, and that there is no sharing of air between the refrigerator and the freezer. Only Sub-Zero can make your lettuce live longer, your ice cream stay creamier and keep your fresh fish and ice pretty much to themselves.



Corporate companions. Kitchen soulmates.

Exclusively Authorized by: G.FOCUS GLOBAL INC. • P.O. Box 111, Robinson Sta., Mandaluyong City 1558 • Tel: (02) 634-4547 • www.kitchenpartners.com • Open on Tues.-Sat. 10AM-7PM • Sun. 12PM-6PM

Jingle bar-bells

Gym junkies require more than the usual weights and machines

Support
RONALD
MCDONALD
HOUSE
CHARITIES



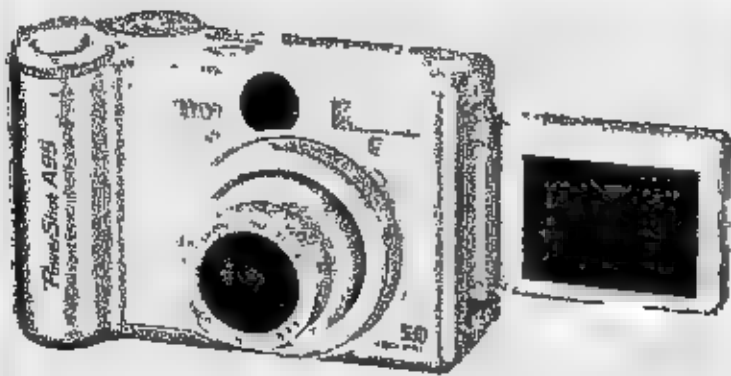
Text and photos by
JR Victorio
26U Correspondent

A PERSON that simply lifts a rusty old concrete barbell does not a gym junkie make. Working out is not simply a pastime or an excuse to stalk your crush, but a lifestyle. It requires passion for fitness and every discipline that goes with it.

And a gym junkie takes great effort to follow strict diets and to own necessary gym accessories. He or she may also be involved in a sport or two.

This Christmas, give a gift that a gym buff will surely appreciate. No, not a fruitcake or a fattening box of brownies! Here's a bulging list. If you don't have the money for any gift, why, offer a good neck and shoulder massage instead.

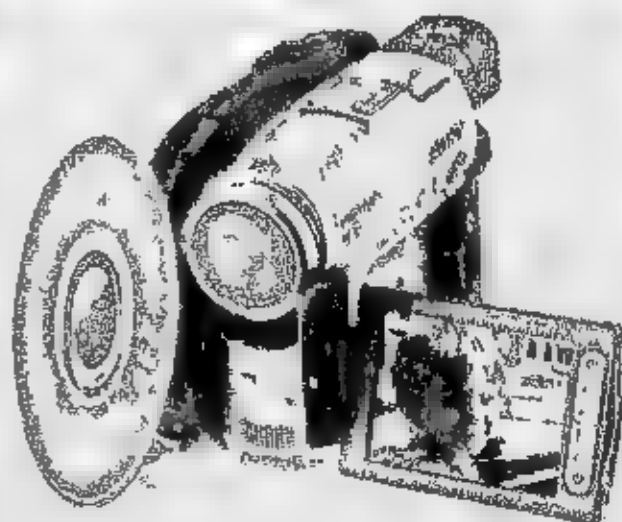
E-mail the author at jrvictorio@yahoo.com

**CANON POWERSHOT A95**

Are film cameras going the way of the dodo? Who knows? But it's wise to invest in a good digicam nevertheless. Entry-level photographers, hobbyists and more-experienced shooters alike will revel in the versatile features that the Canon Powershot A95. Packed in its ergonomically designed body are a sophisticated five-megapixel CCD, 12x combined zoom, and a host of other advanced shooting and convenience features.

**SONY ERICSSON K700i**

It's not every day that you chance upon a mobile phone that appeals to both consumers and business users alike. But the Japanese-Swedish phone maker has whipped up its magic and come up with the tri-band Sony Ericsson K700i. It's got everything to suit your multimedia needs: a VGA still and video camera, Bluetooth, an FM radio, MP3 player and a massive 40MB of memory.

**SONY DCR-DVD201 HANDYCAM**

Whether you're a budding filmmaker or a proud parent who simply wants to capture your baby's "firsts," you'll find value in the DCR-DVD201 Handycam from Sony. With it you can record directly onto three-inch DVD-R and DVD-RW at resolutions comparable to MiniDV. You can even capture still jpeg images up to a maximum resolution of 1152 x 864 thanks to its one-megapixel CCD imager.

Gadget freaks, rejoice!

See the priceless

looks on your loved

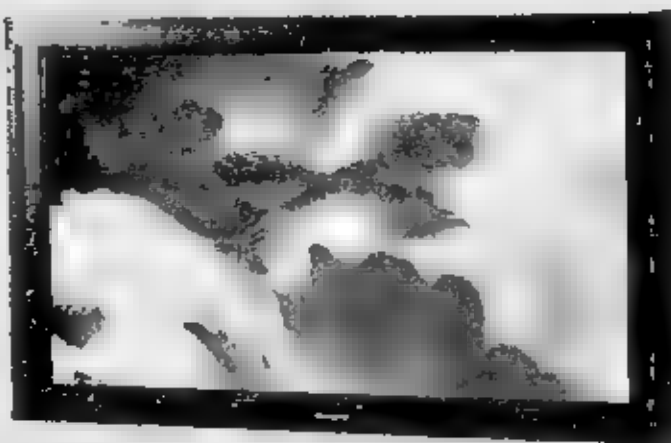
ones' faces when

they introduce you

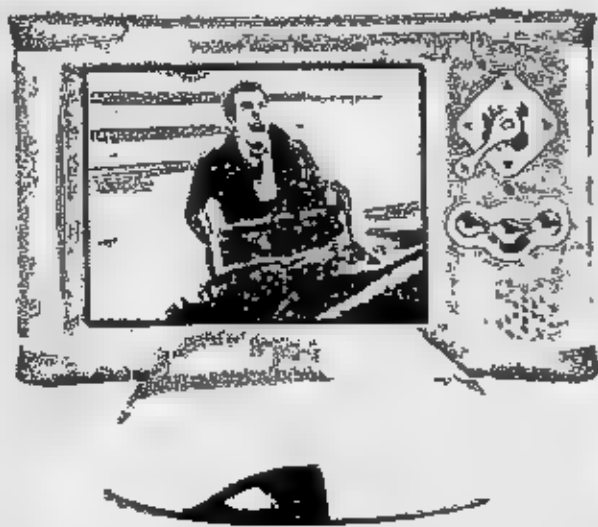
under the

stars' faces.

For the first time, you can see the priceless looks on your loved ones' faces when they introduce you under the stars' faces.

**PANASONIC VIERA**

Does your entertainment (or living) room need a little livening up? Why not decorate your space with a sleek and stylish flat-panel plasma display such as the Panasonic Viera? This High Definition plasma TV features state-of-the-art technology that will surely perk up your home-viewing nights.

**ARCHOS AV400**

Ever dreamed of watching "Sex and the City" or "Friends" on your way to school or work? Techie mobile warriors will delight in the Archos AV400, a personal digital video recorder that lets you watch film and TV content anytime, anywhere. At last, you don't have to be left out in the cold not knowing who Carrie Bradshaw ends up with.

**HP PAVILION DV1000**

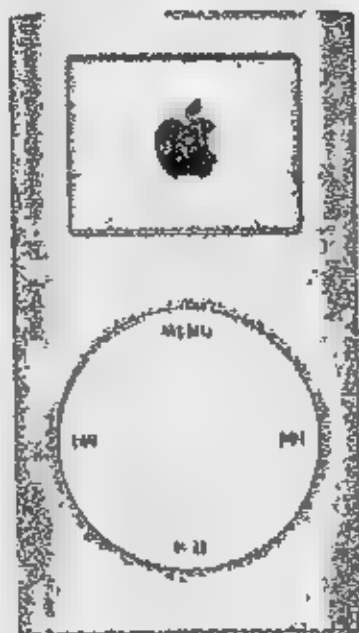
The HP Pavilion dv1000 lives up to its name, "Entertainment Notebook PC." A standalone DVD player as well as a laptop, it plays movies or music CDs at the press of a button. It even has an optional remote that lets users control the action from up to 10 feet away. A multitasking marvel for a multitasking person.

**NOKIA 7260**

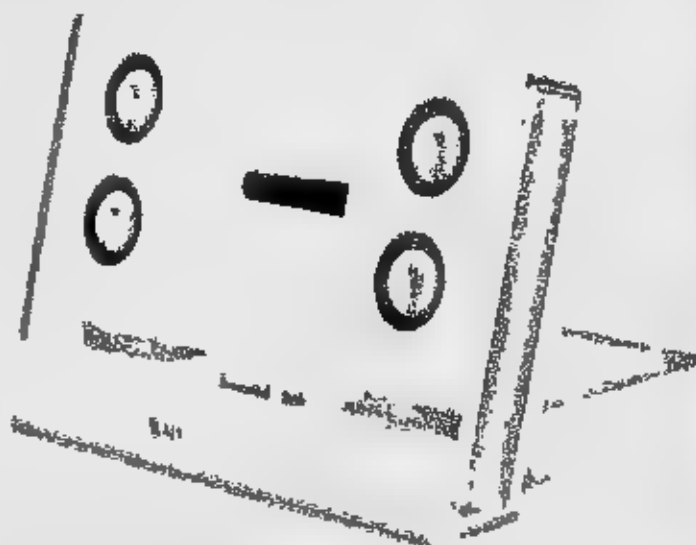
The striking design. The bold pattern. The sleekly flamboyant silver Art Deco highlights. This Nokia 7260 fashion phone oozes character and confidence. And it's not just all looks, mind you. It's got features such as tri-band connectivity, VGA camera and, yep, a shoe-and-clothes size converter. This phone surely makes for an interesting conversation piece.

**TAYLORMADE R5**

Your dad tells you he desperately needs a large, forgiving, confidence-inducing driver. Don't give him a blank stare. He may be hinting about TaylorMade's new r5 dual Type D and r5 dual Type N, the most forgiving drivers that TaylorMade has ever engineered. Each boasts an extraordinarily high movement of inertia that delivers exceptional stability for dramatically better results on off-center hits. Tee off!

**APPLE IPOD MINI**

The 4GB Apple iPod Mini carries on the tradition of the iPod brand with its fashionable, intelligent design. This teenie-weenie hard drive disk player holds about 74 hours' worth of music and shares the same impressive graphical interface and sound specs as its larger sibling. Everything you love about the iPod in a tiny eye candy package. And it comes in five flavors, er, colors! Perfect for fashionista audiophiles.

**ALTEC LANSING INMOTION**

It's the season of giving and sharing, so don't keep your vast music library to yourself. Dock your beloved iPod, unplug those ubiquitous earphones and power on the paperback-sized Altec Lansing InMotion speakers. Party the night away!

A merry comic-book Christmas

By Adrian Dy
26U1 Correspondent

FOR THE Marvel zombie: Astonishing X-Men 1-6

Perhaps the best comic put out by Marvel this year Buffy and Angel creator Joss Whedon hit all the right chords and John Cassaday made all those chords look extremely pretty. Between a cure for the mutant gene, rampant in-fighting and the return of a fan favorite character, the X-Men seemed more real and looked more real, too. A definite "can't miss" for Marvel fans and a "must-have" for anyone in the key of X.

For the Johnny DC: Identity Crisis 1-7

It started with the murder of a one superhero's wife, and, from there, it just grew and grew. In what could be the largest status quo-changing event since, well, Crisis on Infinite Earths, New York Times best-selling author Brad Meltzer has put together a murder mystery to boggle the mind, with repercussions that span the entire DC Universe. Sharp pencils by Rags Morales and covers by Michael Turner give this mini-series some serious eye candy. The fact, too, that this sets the foundation for a very large summer event next year for DC, all equal a gift no DC fan should spend Christmas without.

For the guy who would rather watch comics: "Spider-man 2" DVD

Bar none, the best superhero movie ever (sorry "Superman"), and very much up there on the list of best sequels ever. "Spider-man 2" was just a roller-coaster ride of action and emotion, everything that made the character such a hit when he first debuted in the pages of Amazing Fantasy. A certified box-office hit and beloved by comic fans worldwide, the DVD is also jam-packed with all those little features that make the format so interesting. It's something a non-comic fan will definitely appreciate as well.



RUNAWAYS

For fans of O.C., Smallville and One Tree Hill, Runaways Volume 1: Pride and Joy

It's just too easy to imagine Runaways as WB's next "it" show. Start with the teens from "Dawson's Creek," toss in the superpowers of "Smallville" and mix with a dash of mutants from the "Marvel Universe," and you have Runaways. When six teens discover that their parents are actually a group of super villains called the Pride, they go on the lam with the hope of making up for their parents' evil deeds by saving the world. A gripping plot and awesome dialogue by Brian K. Vaughan and anime-inspired art by Adrian Alphona, condensed into the portable and cheap Marvel Age digest format, makes this popular with the teens.

For the budding comic-book writer: The Powers Scriptbook

Ever wonder how a comic book is written? Well, Image Comics answers that



"SPIDER-MAN 2" DVD

here, by publishing the unedited scripts from the first two story arcs of the acclaimed hit Powers, written by Brian Michael Bendis and illustrated by Mike Oeming. Check out the art-less side of a normally visual medium, and when you're through with the book, do as the man himself, Bendis, mentions in the introduction: Write, write, write.

For the aspiring comic book know-it-all: The DC Comics Encyclopedia

Quick! When was the first comic book appearance of Lex Luthor? What color are the eyes of Green Lantern? How heavy is Batman? Who are the members of the spin-off team of Justice League, the Extreme Justice? Comprehensive being an understatement in this case, this encyclopedia is a worthy successor to the classic "Who's Who" series of DC. Fully illustrated and colored with not only the most famous, but also some obscure but no less interesting heroes and villains.

For those who deem themselves "mature readers": John Constantine, Hellblazer statue

Perhaps the walking embodiment of the Vertigo line of comics after the Sandman, the perpetually bathed in bad luck, chain-smoking alcoholic of a black mage is set to hit the big screens soon with Keanu Reeves in the title role. Beat the rush by getting your friend this statue while the movie is still not in the theaters. Then sit back and watch as they smugly say to their other friends, "Oh yes, I was a fan long before the movie!"

For fans of "Alias," "The X-Files" and Jerry Bruckheimer flicks: Global Frequency: Planet Ablaze

Halfway between an urban myth and CIA is a group comprising 1,000 men and women dedicated to saving the world. Packed with some of the most innovative ideas from Warren Ellis, each issue in this collection is also illustrated by some of the best artists in the biz. More

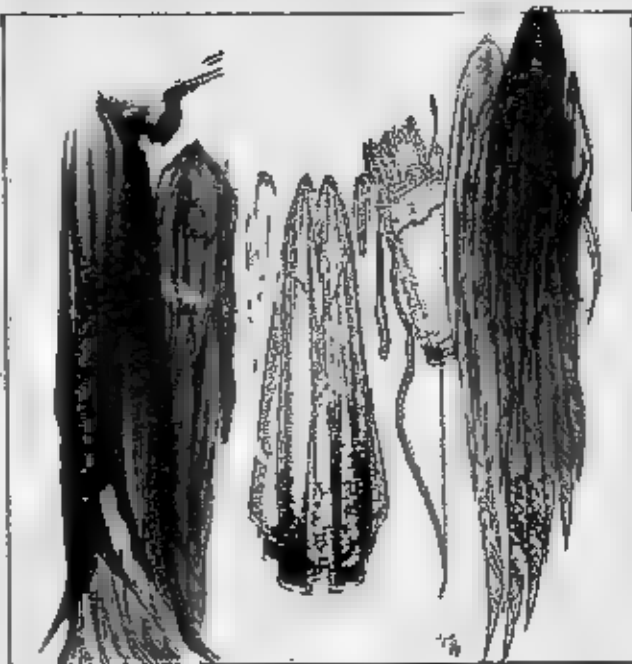
sci-fi than superheroes, with storylines such as an Ebola Virus bomb in London and a cyborg created by US military, Global Frequency is one of Ellis' best efforts so far and is a no-brainer for those that like their comics with a touch of more science and conspiracy.

For people growing up in the real world: Blankets

Make no mistake, this book is big, at a whopping 592 pages. Pretty appropriate for something that tackles all the big things in life such as love, religion, friendship and coming of age. Based on his own life, writer/artist Craig Thompson has produced a poignant and lyrical graphic novel about finding one's place in the world. Words barely describe his expressive pencils that churn out some of the best visual poetry ever known to man. Buy this for a loved one, and then do yourself a favor and buy one for yourself, too.

If you're looking for the best: The Sandman Volume 1 Preludes and Nocturnes

Everything that a comic book should be can be found in the pages of Neil Gaiman's much-lauded Sandman series. The stories found in this book and in all the other volumes are so powerful, so groundbreaking that they may truly be the myths of our generation. Combining horror, fantasy and pure dream stuff, the Sandman is the series to get for people who have not had the chance to be charmed and have their eyes opened to a place beyond this waking world.



IDENTITY Crisis



- Make sure to buy Christmas lights of good quality to prevent accidents that could lead to fires.
 - Choose the blinking Christmas lights, rather than the non-blinking ones, for they consume less electricity.
 - Don't plug all your Christmas lights in one socket. Use multiple outlets.
- Turn off and unplug all Christmas lights and "parols" before sleeping.
 - For lights and decors outside your homes and offices, use only those designated for outdoor use.
 - Use bulbs of lower wattage for your Christmas light fixtures so you can save on your electric bill.
- Don't leave the Christmas tree switched on and candles lighted overnight to prevent fires.
 - Keep flammable objects away from your Christmas tree. All incandescent light sources, no matter how small they are, produce heat and can cause fires.

It is not the number of Christmas lights you have on that make for a bright Christmas. It is the light in our hearts that glows the brightest.

Celebrate more.
Pay less.

The power to change power.



MERALCO

Rising Across Rockwell.



For as low as
P11,485 a month!

M
metropolitan

For a personal tour of the model units,
visit The Edge showroom:
One McKinley Place Commercial Arcade
26th St. Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City
For inquiries, call:
8300455 to 57 • 0917 8536539

PHILTOWN
A SUBSIDIARY OF PHILCORP CORPORATION

NIKE Strappy Mood Top. It doesn't change colors while your mood shifts, but it definitely puts you in the right workout mood. P1,495, Nike



NIKE Zap Three Q Pants. Show off your fine figure with these hip-huggers. P1,695, Nike

NIKE Gym Bag. Now you can head straight to the gym from the office without changing your bag. P1,595, Nike



NIKE Sphere Dry (white) P1,395. Nike Tank Top (pink) P995, Nike



Jingle bar-bells

From page 11



NIKE Sphere Dry Shirt. Don't you just hate it when you sweat too much and your shirt becomes all messed up? P1,295, Nike



NIKE Triax C8 Heart Rate Monitor Watch. Includes an ergonomic chest transmitter you snap onto your chest that sends ECG-accurate heart rate data to your watch. P6,800, L Time Studio

NIKE Gym Shorts. Pureform shorts are constructed to give you no-guilt, no-heat, no-sweat, no-mess, no-fault while working out. P1,595, Nike

UNLESS you can get away with grocery plastic bags, you need a gym bag. The Nike Gym Bag is a duffel bag with a handle and a shoulder strap. P1,295, Duffel Bag 1,595, Nike





I whattowatch I

THE PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 BAD SANTA
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR
ALEXANDER

BAD SANTA
SM Manila Cinema 3
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 5
SM Fairview Cinema 7
SM Bicutan Cinema 3

BCUZ OF U
SM Fairview Cinema 9
SM Southmall Cinema 9
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10
SM Manila Cinema 12

HAROLD AND KUMAR
SM North Edsa Cinema 6
SM Tutuban Cinema 2
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM Megamall Cinema 4
SM Bicutan Cinema 2

HONEY
SM Tutuban Cinema 1
SM Southmall Cinema 2
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 2
SM Manila Cinema 5
SM Secat Cinema 1
SM North Edsa Cinema 8
SM Bicutan Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 9

NATIONAL TREASURE
SM Manila Cinema 1
SM North Edsa Cinema 7
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM Bicutan Cinema 4
SM Fairview Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 3
SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM Sucat Cinema 3

PA-SIYAM
SM Manila Cinema 9
SM North Edsa Cinema 3
SM Southmall Cinema 7
SM Fairview Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 8
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 1
SM Tutuban Cinema 3

2046
SM Megamall Cinema 6
SM Fairview Cinema 3
BRIDGET JONES 2
SM Manila Cinema 10
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 6
SM Sucat Cinema 4

GEORGE OF THE DRAGON
SM Manila Cinema 11
SM North Edsa Cinema 2
SM Southmall Cinema 6
SM Fairview Cinema 2
NED KELLY
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM Southmall Cinema 6
SM Fairview Cinema 4

ONE MISSED CALL
SM Megamall Cinema 11
SM Manila Cinema 6
SM Southmall Cinema 10
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 6
SM Fairview Cinema 1
SM Tutuban Cinema 4

Movies are subject to change without prior notice. For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE
THE BUNNYGUARDS

NOW SHOWING
SM CITY MANILA
MITCB Rating: G
SM Cinema celebrates Washington's special of his century. Through his connections to the underworld and for a large amount of money, a Filipino publisher succeeds in getting his hands on a tape with a recording of a secret and incriminating conversation between the President and his wife. However, just prior to the big press conference, the revealing tape is accidentally exchanged with his daughter's Japanese lesson tape. As soon as the father realizes what has happened, he tries to get the best bodyguards money can buy to protect her. However, thanks to the efforts of the Geomancer Secret Service and the CIA, both of which are eager to get their hands on the tape, there ends up with the two biggest gangs in town, Exo and Sling.

Catch The Bunnyguards only here at SM Cinema! Watch how Exo and Sling get to be heroes for a day! See hilarious, outrageous scenes, catchers are coming about only here at SM Cinema!



PAYNE'S PAIN. A relationship that fell apart inspired the song "My World"

The pleasures of Joshua Payne

From page A1
told somebody once, "I was dying to find something that I was good at." When I discovered music again—I got this voice teacher back in college, an incredible tenor—I was so excited to find a coach-player relationship. It was just like football, but he was the guy who said, "Okay, here's the play, you go do it." So that made the transition very easy. I understood that he was the expert in this field, and I needed to be the apprentice.
"If I hadn't had that sports background," he added, "I couldn't have been the go-getter. But I knew about the work ethic, so that really just let me go 'Boom!' and launch into that career. And it wasn't long until I was on top of my game."
He soon developed his already-fortified baritone and eventually toured

with the University of Memphis' opera company.
Joshua Payne, however, was bound for a different kind of pain.
"If you listen to the song 'My World,' that's what happened," he said. "I was dating a girl, and the relationship fell apart. So with that, I lost all interest in music, and I was done with it. So I started working in construction and I opened a vintage clothing store.
"But music would remember and it found me again. I'd always written songs like ballads and James Taylor kind of stuff, but it was at that time I sort of became the troubadour, and opera went by the wayside."
What's inside of him
The culmination of his angst and joys, his debut album "Your Love, My World," is his "take on pop music." He dispelled the notion that his guitar is

just a press photo prop. He ran to his bedroom and returns to play a stanza from his own composition, "The Moon."
"When I started writing that tune, I heard this line, 'I love the moon and all its phases,'" he said after singing. "And I just went, 'Holy mackerel, that's a song!' so I wrote that down, and it was two years before I went back to it. I thought, that sounds really old-fashioned to me. I said, 'I'm gonna use old-fashioned language and I'm gonna set out to write a kind of old pop standard. That was the style. I really wanted to do that.'"
Writing his songs in his distinct fashion requires bona fide inspiration: "In this process, I discovered what was inside of me. I said this before, and I guess it's the only way that I can say it. There is leitmof inside of me."

He proceeds to mimic both Darth Vader's and Luke Skywalker's contrasting theme music from "Star Wars," composed by John Williams, to cite famous examples.
"I think it's the leitmotif of Joshua Payne, not to speak about myself in the third person, (but) you can hear that in the record," he said. "That sends me racing to find some way to scramble and get it out of me. And that's when the art comes. That's the muse, but it happens when I'm somewhere that is vibrate."

'I'm in a magazine'
The newcomer still feels a tad shocked that he has

New mom Julia...

From page A3-4
But Roberts told USA Today in an interview just before the birth that despite the scare, her pregnancy had not come complete with some of the more common miseries expectant mothers face.
"Never got sick," she said. "I've heard horror stories about people who have a slip of water and then throw up for four hours. But I come from hardy stock. I'm Southern," she told the paper.
Roberts is currently starting in two newly released movies, "Ocean's Twelve" and "Closer," both of which hit the screens around the time of her biggest production, the birth of her twins. AFP

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

PREMIERE THEATRE 1 9:00pm NATIONAL TREASURE 2 10:00pm BRIDGET JONES 3 10:00pm SHREK 2	Filinvest 1 10:00pm CHRISTMAS WITH A KRAVINKS 2 10:00pm POLAR EXPRESS 3 10:00pm 2046 4 10:00pm BIRTH 5 10:00pm NATIONAL TREASURE 6 10:00pm ALEXANDER 7 10:00pm BCUZ OF U 8 10:00pm SEED OF CHUCKY 9 10:00pm BRIDGET JONES	EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez St. Ave. (C-2) Green City) tel 687 9963 or 72 1 10:00pm SPIDERMAN 2 10:00pm BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2 3 10:00pm THE INCREDIBLES 4 10:00pm SHREK 2
SUPER CINEMAS 1 10:00pm BIRTH 2 10:00pm ALEXANDER 3 10:00pm ONE MISSED CALL 4 10:00pm SALAT	Gotesco Grand Central (Calabacal) tel 364 3793 1 10:00pm RESERVE 2 10:00pm RESERVE 3 10:00pm RESERVE 4 10:00pm RESERVE 5 10:00pm RESERVE 6 10:00pm RESERVE 7 10:00pm RESERVE 8 10:00pm RESERVE 9 10:00pm RESERVE	Maragana CINEMA (Pasy) tel 835 3290 833 3274 1 10:00pm SEED OF CHUCKY 2 10:00pm PASUYAM 3 10:00pm SALAT
Berna Cinema (Bachman) tel 879 2938 / 879 2829 1 10:00pm SALAT 2 10:00pm	Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850 1276 1 10:00pm MAGDADALAGA 2 10:00pm SNI CAPTAIN 3 10:00pm SALAT	st rmall (Las Pinas) tel 847 237 7007 1 10:00pm POLAR EXPRESS 2 10:00pm SANTA SANTITA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

The pleasures...

From page A2

gotten the attention of People Magazine recently. He thought he was being interviewed for a music article, while numerous staffers (about 15 women and a few men) were present during his appearance. He was later informed that he was chosen for its annual list of sexiest male celebrities, an achievement his parents are very proud of.

"Golly, I don't even think about it," he said, grinning. "I mean, I think, 'Oh, gosh, I'm in a magazine, and it's great publicity.' People are knowing—okay, cool!"

Joshua revealed that, no, he didn't secretly have the magazine framed on his wall, either. "I didn't even buy it. I said, 'Okay, I guess today's the day.' So I went into the grocery store and I flipped through it and there I was, and I read it. 'Maybe that'll sell some records.' I closed it up and I walked out the door."

He finds fame a bizarre thing, but he doesn't feel deeply affected by it. "I don't think I'm changing. If the world revolves around me, I feel like I'm just this constant thing. I'm thankful this didn't happen ten years ago. It's about character, and you develop that through the trials and the things that you go through. If that is intact, when everything around you shifts, it's not as weird as it could be."

"But yes, it is weird," he added, bursting into laughter.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE MANILA

LAGUNA	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPAGE
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKAS MAY UMAGA
ROBIN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUNAT
TANDEM-2	KATANA MO JANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF DRAGON

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SEXUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	OPUSMAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGANG KALAKAN PAPALAY
CORONET A	SALAT SA JIGYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SALAT SA JIGYA
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-2079 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA 1	SEX BOMB / RAMPAGE
CINEMA 2	NATIONAL TREASURE

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-6401 TO 191)
CINEMA-1	HELL WOLF
CINEMA-2	SALAT
CINEMA-3	SEED OF CHUCKY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ONE MISSED CALL
CINEMA-12	BIRTH
CINEMA-14	PA-SIYAM
CINEMA-15	90° / 7.75

LONES	
CINEMA-2	SEXUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMA-IO - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	OPUSMAL SIN
CINEMA-1	SEX BOMB / RAMPAGE
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	PA-SIYAM

UNI-WIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PANAGUO)	SEXUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK
CINEMA-4	SE, BA

POWER PLANT

Reservoir Country Road 2, Cebu

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS GP 12:00, 5:35, 8:50 POLAR EXPRESS - GP 3:20, 7:35	NATIONAL TREASURE 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	BRIDGET JONES PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
HAROLD AND KUMAR	SHARK TALE GP 12:30, 5:00, 9:30 INCREDIBLES GP 2:30, 7:00	BAD SANTA

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM, \$100.00, MON-FRI

THEATRE-MALL

ORIENTAL MALL

1 BAD SANTA PG-13

2 HAROLD & KUMAR R13

TICKET PRICES: SCREENING TIME: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 PM
ORIENTAL MALL SHOPPING CENTER, ORIENTAL AVENUE, MALL OF ASIA

DECEMBER 17 & 18 *PENIS TALKS The Record 8:30 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL 727-8126 OR 727-0635

SHANGRI-LA CINEMAS

1 NATIONAL TREASURE (GP)	3 SPIDERMAN 2 (GP)
2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON) (PG-13)	4 SHREK 2 (GP)

PREMIERE THEATRE THE INCREDIBLES

Enjoy our Screen Specials
Pay 20% less on movies during selected blockbuster movies
From Monday to Friday, 12:00pm-5:00pm
For more details, please see film listing at our Cinema
Call 633-2222 or 633-2223

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Eastwood Cinema features the best of 2004

SPIDERMAN 2
BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
THE INCREDIBLES
SHREK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2 Eastwood City
E Rodriguez Jr Ave. N. Lungsod ng Marikina

687-6963
GUARANTEE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

METRO MANILA CINEMAS

GALLERIA	
1 ALEXANDER - THX	6 NATIONAL TREASURE
2 SHREK 2	7 BAD SANTA
3 THE INCREDIBLES	8 HONEY
4 BRIDGET JONES 2	9 HAROLD AND KUMAR
5 BIRTH	10 NED KELLY

ERMITA	
1 SHREK 2	5 RESERVE
2 ALEXANDER	6 HAROLD AND KUMAR
3 NATIONAL TREASURE	7 HONEY
4 BAD SANTA	8 PA-SIYAM

METRO EAST	
1 SEED OF CHUCKY	5 BAD SANTA
2 ALEXANDER	6 NATIONAL TREASURE
3 SHREK 2	7 HONEY
4 HAROLD AND KUMAR	8 PA-SIYAM

NOVALICHES	
1 ALEXANDER	5 ONE MISSED CALL
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 NANG NAK
3 HELLWOLF	7 SEED OF CHUCKY
4 SYLVIA	8 SHREK 2

MOVIE Delights

Purchase any of the Frito Lay products (Lay's, Doritos, Lay's Stax, Garden of Eatin' and Ruffles) with Promo Sticker

Present the empty promo packs at the ticket booth and pay only P50.00 on Premier Prepaid Card

One (1) Promo Pack = One (1) Discounted Premier Ticket
Maximum redemption of two (2) tickets only per visit

See Promo Pack for more details

LAST DAY
No valid promo pack today
NO MORE DISCOUNTED TICKETS

PIONEER

1 SHARK TALE	3 THE POLAR EXPRESS
2 THE INCREDIBLES	4 SHREK 2

Ginkgo Square MALLABON	
1 SEED OF CHUCKY	3 THE POLAR EXPRESS
2 ALEXANDER	4 BUKAS MAY UMAGA

BRIDGET JONES

NOW ON ITS 3RD WEEK!

in Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

galleria • lipa and bacolod

Opportunity
knocks
but
once.



JOB
Hunted

Arcadia Center

NOW OPEN!

SinPLEX*10

1 HAROLD & KUMAR
2 NATIONAL TREASURE
3 BAD SANTA
4 BRIDGET JONES

Opens soon!

CINEMAS 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10

EXPERIENCE MOVIE-GOING LIKE NO OTHER

SinPLEX*10

LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL

LEISURE GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEMAS

3 ALEXANDER
4 HAROLD & KUMAR
5 BAD SANTA
6 HONEY
7 BCUZ OF U

JAPANESE CONSUMERS

Dec. 15 FEDEX vs. SLR

Dec. 25 DISNEY ON ICE 1pm/4:30pm/8pm

Dec. 26 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm

Dec. 27 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm

Dec. 28 DISNEY ON ICE 6pm

Dec. 29 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm

ENTERTAINMENT *Metro*

Text us your feedback: inquirer.ent.name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



LEONARDO DICAPRIO, "The Aviator"



HILARY SWANK, "Million Dollar Baby"



JOHNNY DEPP, "Finding Neverland"



LIAM NEESON, "Kinsey"



IMELDA STAUNTON, "Vera Drake"



PAUL GIAMATTI, "Sideways."

Oscars cut Golden Globe influence

BEVERLY HILLS, California—It's no secret that the nomination choices for the Golden Globes have helped define the field of Academy Awards contenders. This year, a fairly wide-open awards season has yet to produce clear front-runners.

Hollywood's uncertain awards picture will take on sharper focus when the nominations for the 62nd annual Golden Globes are announced Monday morning.

Golden Globes are handed out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a compara-

tively small group of about 90 reporters for overseas news outlets. Yet with a nationally televised awards ceremony on NBC and a solid knack for picking eventual Academy Awards winners, the Globes wield a fair amount of sway among the 5,800 Oscar voters.

Tighter time frame

The Globes last January correctly predicted eventual Oscar winners in all key categories, including best-picture champ "The Lord of the Rings: The Re-

turn of the King" and actors Sean Penn, Charlize Theron, Tim Robbins and Renee Zellweger.

But this year, as with the 2003 season—when the Oscars were moved up a month to late February—the Globes will have a bit less influence because of a tighter awards time

SHOW TIME

frame.

Globe winners used to be announced a few days before Oscar nomination ballots were due. That gave last-minute vot-

ers in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences a chance to make their choices based on the Globe outcomes.

This time, Oscar nominations are due a day before the Jan. 16 presentation of the Globes. The Academy Awards show is Feb. 27.

Top contenders

Lead Golden Globe contenders this year include Martin Scorsese's epic Howard Hughes film biography "The Aviator"; Clint Eastwood's boxing drama "Million Dollar Baby"; Marc Forster's "Finding Neverland,"

about J.M. Barrie and the creation of "Peter Pan";

Joel Schumacher's musical "The Phantom of the Opera," adapted from Andrew Lloyd Webber's stage sensation; Alexander Payne's road-trip comedy "Sideways" and Bill Condon's "Kinsey," about sexuality researcher Alfred Kinsey.

Among top acting prospects are Jamie Foxx as singer Ray Charles in "Ray"; Leonardo DiCaprio as Hughes in "The Aviator"; Hilary Swank as a female boxer and Eastwood as her trainer in "Million Dollar Baby";

Johnny Depp as Barrie and Kate Winslet as his muse in "Finding Neverland"; Liam Neeson in the title role in "Kinsey"; Imelda Staunton as the title character in the abortion drama "Vera Drake" and Paul Giamatti as a loser in love in "Sideways."

The Globes feature 13 categories for film and 11 for television.

Unlike other major movie awards, the Globes have separate divisions for dramas and comedies or musicals in the best-picture and lead-acting categories. AP

'Ocean's Twelve' robs 'Treasure' of boffo power

LOS ANGELES—Movie audiences have gone from one robbery flick to another. "Ocean's Twelve," the star-driven sequel to the theft caper "Ocean's Eleven," debuted with \$40.9 million, stealing the top box office slot from the heist hit "National Treasure," which slipped to third place with \$10 million, studio estimates showed Sunday.

"National Treasure," which held the No. 1 spot the three previous weekends, lifted its domestic total to \$124.2 million.

"Blade: Trinity," the third in Wesley Snipes' vampire series, opened at No. 2 with \$16.1 million. The franchise had lost much of its bite since "Blade II," which debuted with more than twice the revenue, \$32.5 million, and opened as the No. 1 movie in March 2002.

Quirky tale

Playing in 3,290 theaters, "Ocean's Twelve" averaged a robust \$12,426 per cinema, compared with \$5,537 in 2,912 movie houses for "Blade: Trinity."

In limited release, Bill Murray's quirky oceanography tale "The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou" opened strongly, taking in \$114,000 at just two theaters in New York City and Los Angeles. The film expands on Christmas Day.

Hollywood revenues rose solidly, with the top 12 movies taking in \$102.8 million, up 28 percent from the same weekend in 2003, when "Something's Gotta Give" opened as the No. 1 movie with \$16.1 million.

"Ocean's Twelve" reunites director

Steven Soderbergh with a dream cast led by George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Julia Roberts and Andy Garcia. Joining them this time was Catherine Zeta-Jones, adding to the sequel's star power.

"Moviegoers like their movie stars all in one place," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "It's like one-stop shopping for all the top stars in Hollywood."

Even better

The follow-up sends the gang to Europe, where they must pull off a virtually impossible heist to win a bet with a rival and pay off the Vegas casino owner they robbed in "Ocean's Eleven."

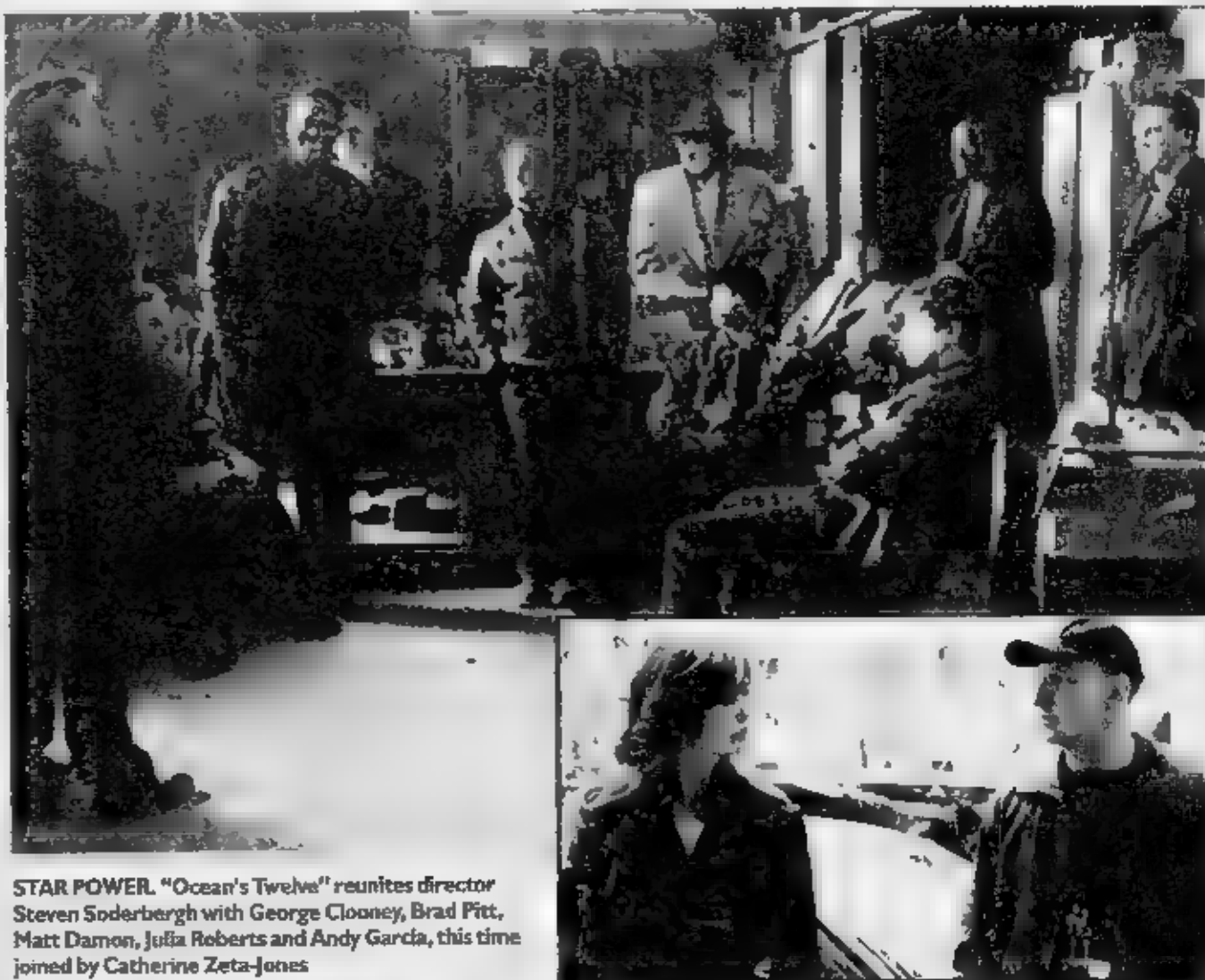
Given the movie's marquee-name roster and the success of the first movie, which grossed \$163.4 million domestically, some industry analysts thought "Ocean's Twelve" might do even better than it did.

Still, its debut came in higher than the \$38.1 million opening weekend of "Ocean's Eleven" in December 2001. Factoring in today's higher admission prices, "Ocean's Twelve" sold slightly fewer tickets than the original.

Distributor Warner Bros. and producer Jerry Weintraub already are mulling a second "Ocean's" sequel, said Dan Fellman, the studio's head of distribution.

"Blade: Trinity" features Snipes returning as the half-human, half-vampire action hero, this time battling the

of the bloodsuckers, Dracula. Distributor New Line hopes "Blade:



STAR POWER. "Ocean's Twelve" reunites director Steven Soderbergh with George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Julia Roberts and Andy Garcia, this time joined by Catherine Zeta-Jones



THE ONLY ONE. Wesley Snipes in sci-fi, horror "Blade: Trinity"

"Trinity" will hold up well during an onslaught of comedies, dramas and family flicks through year's end.

"Everybody always wants their numbers to be better," said David Tucker, head of distribution for New Line. "Still, we're basically the only movie like it. There's nothing else like it in the marketplace, a sci-fi, horror type of movie."

Top 10

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "Ocean's Twelve," \$40.9 million.
2. "Blade: Trinity," \$16.1 million.
3. "National Treasure," \$10 million.
4. "The Polar Express," \$9.8 million.
5. "Christmas With the Kranks," \$7.6 million.
6. "The Incredibles," \$5.05 million.
7. "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie," \$4.4 million.
8. "Closer," \$3.75 million.
9. "Finding Neverland," \$1.7 million.
10. "Alexander," \$1.4 million.

AP

All-Digital Cinemas



The fun is in the finds

Movie tickets for sale at the Ground Floor Flea Market and Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

1. The Polar Express
2. National Treasure
3. George and the Dragon
4. Pasiyam

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

5. Honey
6. Harold and Kumar
7. Bad Santa

Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Customer Service Hotline: 888-7616

New mom Julia home with twins

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood's top female star, Julia Roberts, has returned home from hospital with her twins following a health scare involving one of the premature tots, a report said Thursday.

The "Pretty Woman" star, named Hollywood's top-earning actress by the Hollywood Reporter because of her \$20-million-a-picture asking price, went home on Saturday, People magazine said.

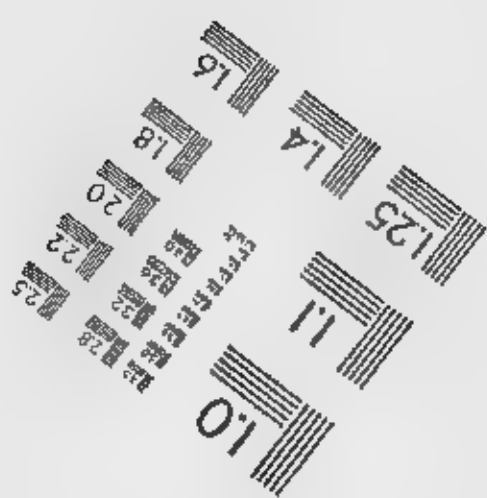
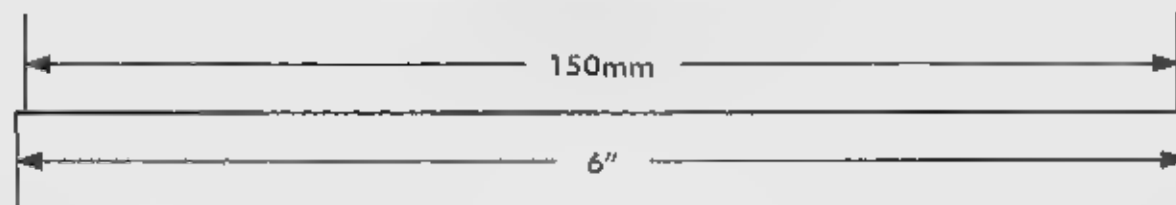
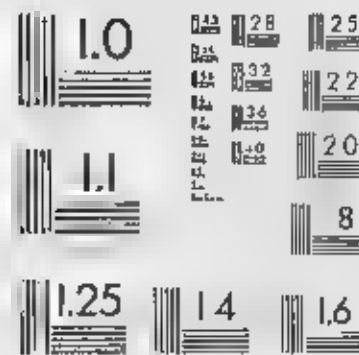
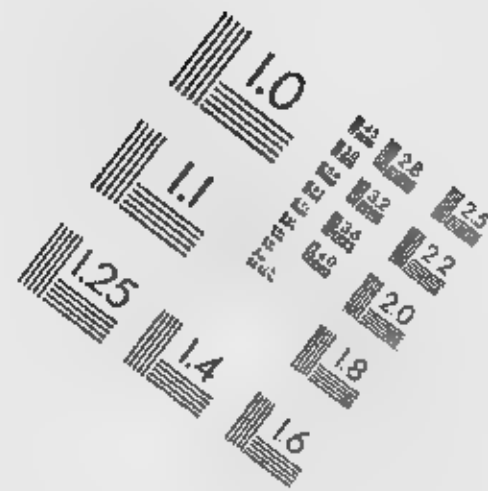
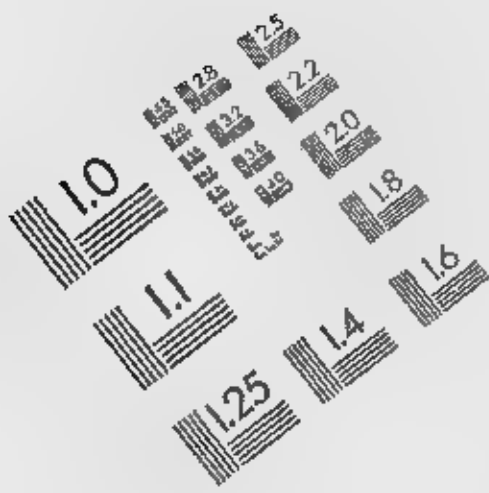
The 37-year-old Oscar-winner and her twins, a boy called Phineas Walter Moder and a girl named Hazel Patricia Moder, were born more than one month early on Nov. 28.



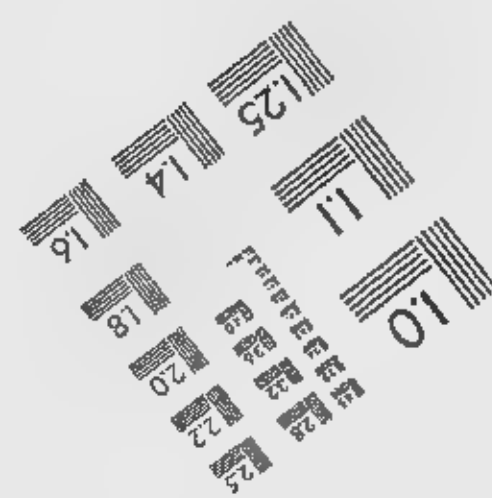
HARD STOCK. Julia Roberts says she never got sick during her pregnancy

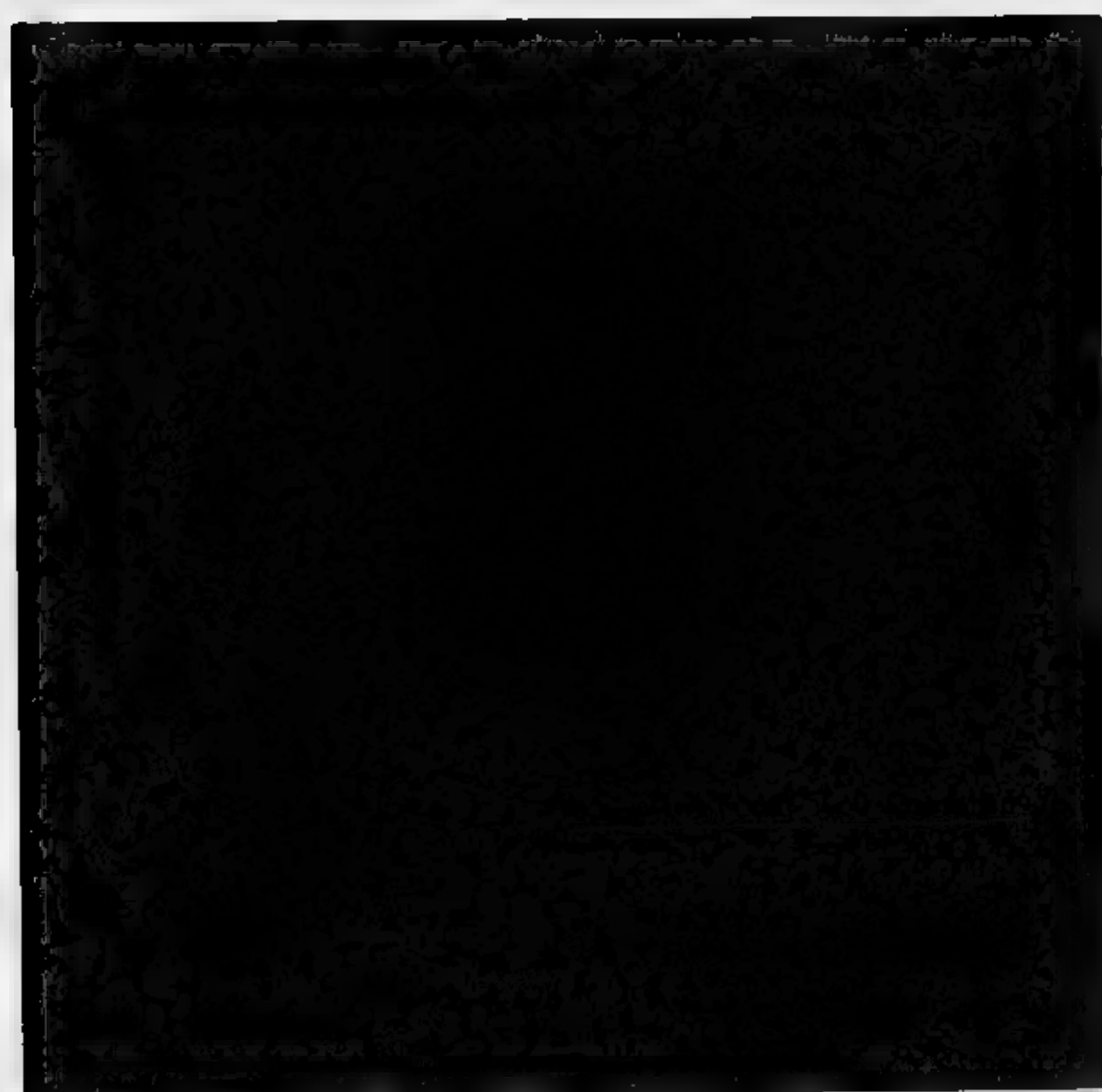
NEW MOM: A3-1

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)



APPLIED IMAGE Inc
1653 East Main Street
Rochester, NY 14609 USA
Phone: 716-482-0300
Fax: 716-482-0300
© 1990 Applied Image, Inc. All Rights Reserved





100-1000

1

END

PLEASE REWIND

START

**ATENEO DE MANILA
UNIVERSITY
RIZAL LIBRARY**

P.O. BOX 154, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

UNAUTHORIZED REPRODUCTION FORBIDDEN

FILMED: JANUARY 2005

REDUCTION: 19



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

DECEMBER
16 THRU 31
2004

REEL

347

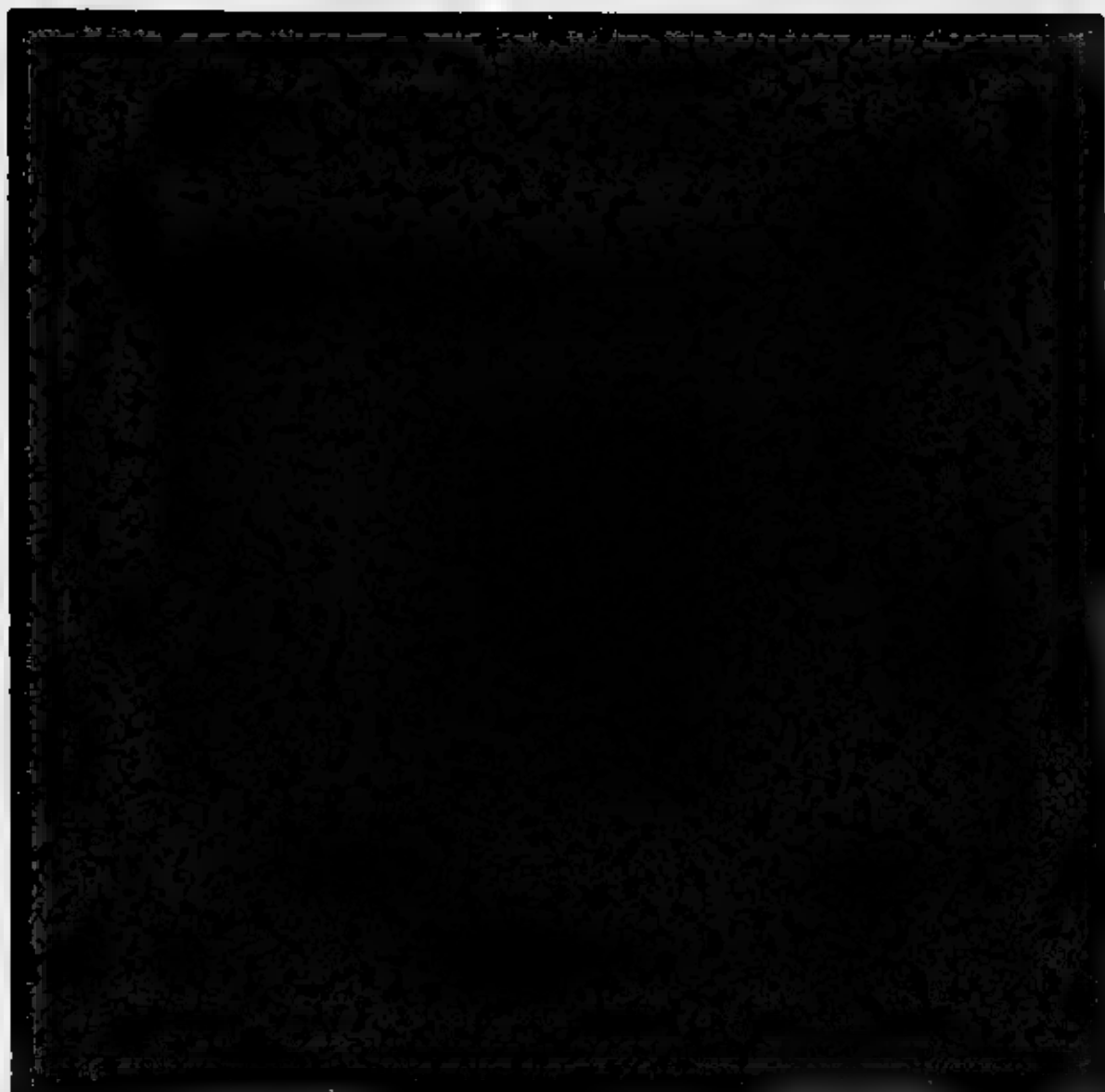
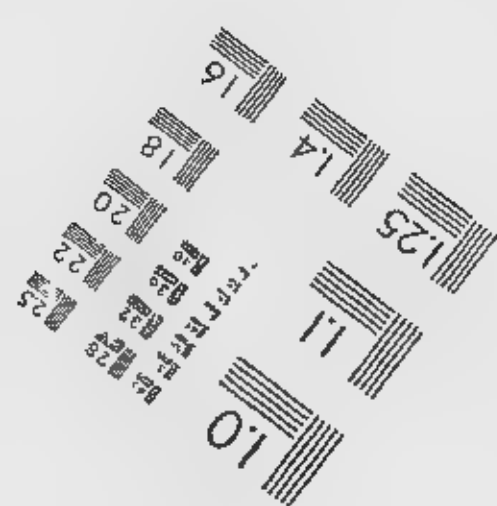
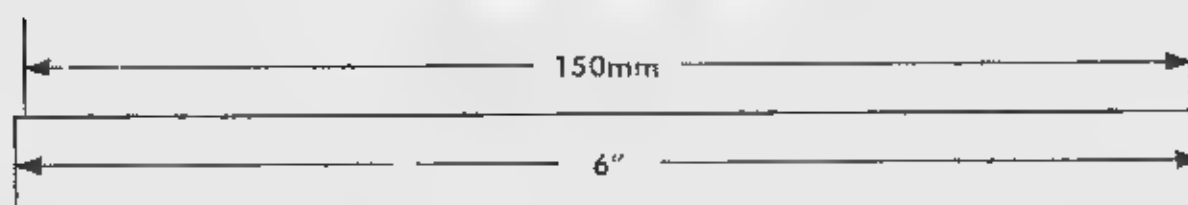
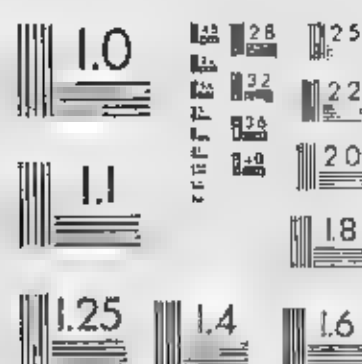
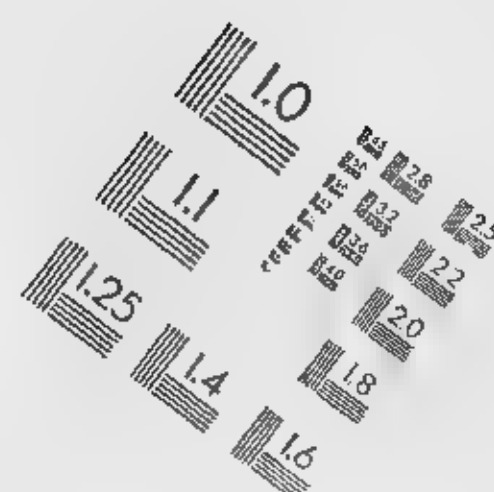
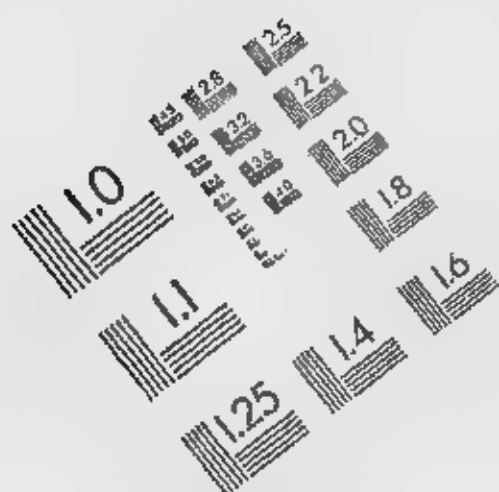
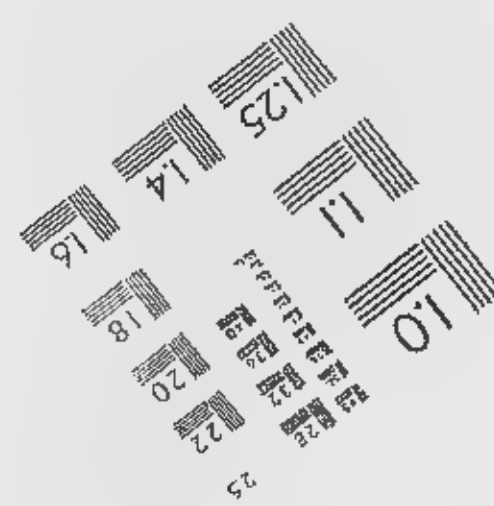


IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)



APPLIED IMAGE Inc
1653 East Main Street
Rochester, NY 14609 USA
Phone 716-482-0300
Fax 716-482-5089





■ Business / B1

OFW remittances
soar to 9.5% in 10
months

■ Metro / A20

Staggered work
schedule staggers
on Day 1

■ Sports / A23

Buhain: From Philippine
Sports Commission to Games
and Amusement Board

■ News / A3

HK graft-buster
talks on how
to counter graft

■ BYLINE INQUIRER

Pamaskong handog:
Mga anghel sa lupa
Ngayong alas-10 ng gabí, sa ABC



Filipinos have forgotten what 'simbang gabi' is for

By Lito B. Zulueta

FILIPINOS started early this morning the extended trek to Christmas with the traditional *simbang gabi* that has so become their habit that they have forgotten the ritual's origins and significance.

The *simbang gabi* is really for farmers and
FILIPINOS/AB



No holiday Palace parties but GMA will play Santa

By Christian V.
Esguerra

THERE will be no parties at the Palace this Christmas season, but Malacañang will be bringing cheers to tens of thousands

NO HOLIDAY/AB



email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, December 16, 2004 ★★ 58 pages / 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 8

P18

website: www.inq7.net

Rabid fans mob FPJ wake

Congress approves 'sin tax' measure

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Michael Lim Ubac

THE BICAMERAL conference committee approved last night higher excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol, which are expected to generate P17.5 billion in revenues every year.

The "sin tax" bill is the centerpiece of eight tax measures sought by President Macapagal-Arroyo to enable the government to avoid a debt default in three years.

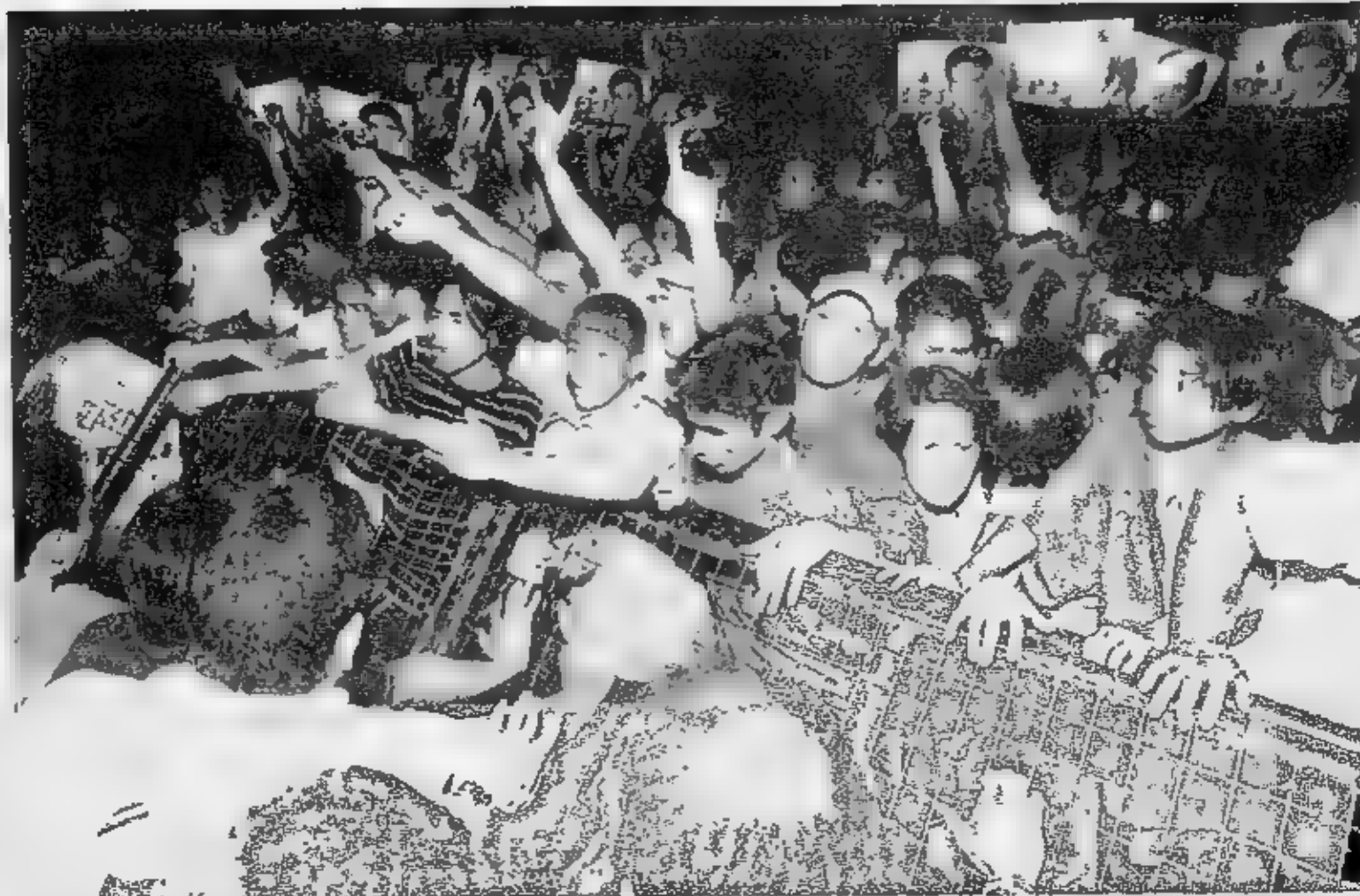
Ms Arroyo estimates that the government will need about P80 billion in additional revenues every year to avoid a debt default.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, a member of the bicamera committee, said that low-end cigarettes would be slapped a tax of P2 per pack, medium-end, P6.35 per pack; high-end, P10.35 per pack; and premium, P25 per pack.

Enrile said the rate would be adjusted every two years until 2011. The adjustment has been set at 3.6 percent of the existing rate plus 16 centavos.

He said the bicamera committee adopted the proposal of the Senate on distilled spirits, wines and other tobacco products. Excise taxes on alcohol-fermented liquor, distilled spirits and wines range from 30 percent to 50 percent, depending on product classification.

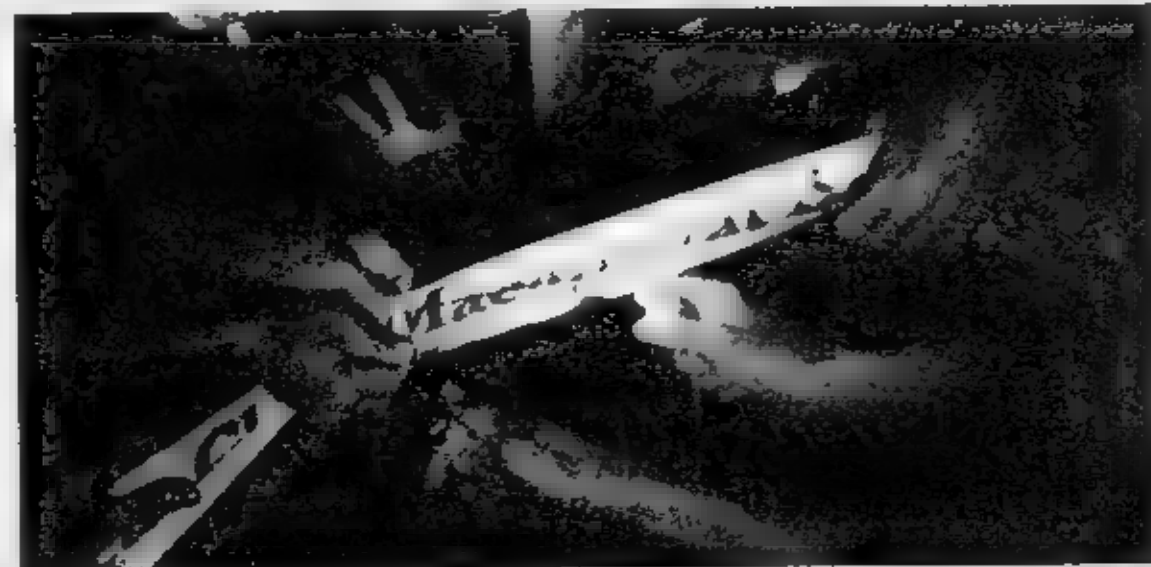
The committee met for more than six hours at the Westin Philippine Plaza in Pasay City to
CONGRESS/AB



THE LINE of FPJ fans forms all over the place on the grounds of the St. Domingo Church as mourning becomes electric.

ILUCH ESPERAS

Palace offers to make FPJ National Artist



THE WREATH from President Arroyo already in tatters is set on fire by angry FPJ mourners.

RAFFY LERMA



THE YOUNG, the old and the in-between, in Manila Blahniks and in slippers, they all came to view "Da King."

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
Cynthia D. Balana
and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG has offered to make Fernando Poe Jr. a national artist and broached the idea of burying him at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The Palace offer is wildly perceived to be attempts at appeasing the angry supporters of the king of Philippine movies.

Supporters of Poe, who accuse President Macapagal-Arroyo of stealing the presidential election from their silver screen idol, tore to pieces and burned a wreath that she had sent to a funeral parlor in Pasig City on Tuesday night.

Not a few have bewailed that Poe, who died last Tuesday, had been heartbroken by his loss by about a million votes to Ms Arroyo.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos yesterday disclosed that Malacañang was considering to declare Poe a National Artist in recognition of the actor's exemplary contributions to Philippine

Marcos said the matter was raised by Press Secretary Igna-
PALACE/A12

'Grief comes from voters who feel cheated'

By Fe Zamora, Volt Contreras
and Luige A. del Puerto

A KILOMETER long of mourning fans of Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday endured hours of waiting just to get a glimpse of their idol's body lying at the St. Domingo Church in Quezon City.

As of 10 last night, the queue had stretched from the St. Martin Chapel in the church to Biak Na Bato and St. Domingo streets which are both flanking the church and also spanned from the corner of Quezon Avenue to Angelicum College, which is located at the back of the St. Domingo Church.

Unlike the first night, the crowd that gathered at the St. Domingo Church yesterday was behaved and organized.

They came practically from all walks of life—diehard supporters of "FPJ" from the May presidential election, factory or office workers, elderly folk, young students, women bearing flowers, and a man holding a placard with his photo and the words "Farewell, My King."

The eruptions of hysteria that marked the hour of Poe's death at 65 on Tuesday have apparently died down. The crowd has become patient, although occasional altercations flared with "FPJ volunteer marshals" controlling the gates.

Earlier, at the close of office hours at 5 p.m. yesterday, the stream of mourners and admirers had formed a line stretching for about 300 meters along St. Domingo Street, outside the church compound.

"This is the outpouring of grief of the voters who were cheated last May. This is phenomenal," Ronald Lumbo, a leader of the People's Movement Against Poverty, told the INQUIRER.

Lumao said pro-FPJ voters "whose votes were cheated last May" will also hold similar "outpourings of grief" in key cities outside Manila such as Cebu and Bacolod.

In the churchyard, the line made several, maze-like turns before snaking into the building's

RABID/A12

Poe's last three weeks, last 24 happy hours

By Cathy S. Babao-Guballa
Contributor

IT WAS as if he knew that time was running out on him.

Fernando Poe Jr. had focused his energies on two projects in the last three weeks before his death.

FPJ was busy overseeing the packing of relief goods for typhoon victims and at the same time putting together a music video of all of his films showing the scenes where he serenaded his leading ladies. It was a retrospective of sorts and those close to him had even asked why he was doing it.

A few days prior to his attack on Saturday night someone had

even jested, "Bakit Ron, mama-matay ka na ba (Why Ron, are you going to die)?"

To this FPJ replied, "Hindi naman. Matagal ko na talagang plano gawin iyan, nawalan lang ng time dahil sa kampanya (No, I've planned this for a long time but couldn't attend to it due to the [presidential] campaign)."

The INQUIRER interviewed two of the closest aides of Poe, Beng Manio, his makeup artist for the last eight years and Zernan Manahan, a former child actor and manager of FPJ's stables and with whom he shared a close 36-year-old friendship.

The two recalled that in the
POE/STAFF/A12

TYPHOON RELIEF

Hunger hones victims' survival skills

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

GENERAL NAKAR, Quezon—Waiting for relief goods and scrambling for a share when the supplies are low is a survival skill that residents of this typhoon-ravaged town are stretching to the limit.

The skill has been honed by hunger—another face of the lingering, if not recurring, disaster. "People are really hungry. They're in a difficult situation," said Franciscan nun Alma Demate.

Seen yesterday from a Super Stallion cargo helicopter, the forested slopes of the Sierra Madre had numerous patches of

landslides that appeared like large, deep brown crevices.

Below, thousands of residents stood tense but alert in the unfinished municipal hall in Barangay Anoling, where government agencies and private donor groups had set up camp.

And even as Philippine and US military helicopters prepared to

descend, other residents rushed to the improvised landing pad, straining to see if there were enough supplies to go around.

Having one's name in the list of beneficiaries is the all-important thing.

Beside the 15-foot statue of World War II hero Gen. Guillermo
HUNGER/AB

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KAY REYESA, FOR RESEARCH/12/16/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	General Santos	Partly Cloudy
Taguig	Cloudy with Rains	Marikina	Partly Cloudy
Lasag	Partly Cloudy	San Jose	Partly Cloudy
Clark	Partly Cloudy	San Carlos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	San Juan	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Cloudy with Rains	San Pedro	Partly Cloudy
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	San Francisco	Partly Cloudy

Oil firms told: Cut prices now

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S top two refiners, Petron and Shell, should slash their gasoline and diesel prices by roughly one peso per liter this week to reflect the steep fall in world crude oil prices in the past six weeks, according to business leader Raul T. Concepcion.

Concepcion, who chairs the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said that based on his computations, Petron and Shell should cut gasoline prices by 98 centavos for gasoline and 92 centavos for diesel this week.

In a Dec. 13 letter to Sen. Manuel A. Roxas, chair of the Senate committee investigating fuel pricing, Concepcion said this was based on the declining trend in Dubai crude oil prices.

He said crude oil prices have fallen 7.1 percent in four weeks (\$34.87 per barrel) from end-October (\$37.54 per barrel), and 10.6 percent in six weeks as of Dec. 12 (\$33.55 per barrel).

Concepcion said oil prices have continued to weaken despite moves by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to reduce production on expectations that fuel prices would go down because of the "mild winter months" from December to March when demand for fuel for heating is at its peak.

Concepcion said his computations "confirmed" the findings of Energy Secretary Vincent Perez who made an appeal to the oil companies to roll back their prices "without indicating the amount as it is

against the deregulation law for the Department of Energy to state the amount."

But when he confronted Petron and Shell with his detailed monthly computation of oil price changes from January to November, Concepcion said the two oil companies refused to comment.

"I told them this this will reinforce the impression of the public that when prices are going up, they are quick to announce price increases and when prices have been dramatically going down over the last six weeks, they are silent," he said.

Concepcion said officials of Petron and Shell maintained that they were in a deregulated industry, that free market competition was the sole determinant of prices, and petroleum products were traded on a daily basis by brokers in a commodity stock exchange.

Aside from a rollback, Concepcion said he has pushed for a shift in the computation of fuel prices from a monthly to a weekly comparison of prices averages "to be more reflective of the movement of oil prices in the world market."

"Weekly price changes will correct the situation where oil companies are quick to raise prices but slow to bring them down," Concepcion said.



ENTERTAINERS PROTEST

Filipino entertainers hold a rally in front of the Department of Labor in Intramuros to protest Japan's plan to restrict the entry of foreign entertainers to Japan. They are asking the government's help to persuade Japan to scrap the restrictions.

Garcia's Baguio house garnished

RETIRED Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia's vacation house and real estate property in Baguio are effectively in government hands.

Yesterday, sheriffs from the Sandiganbayan served the garnishment order on two real estate properties of Garcia, who is accused of amassing P143 million in ill-gotten wealth, five days after seizing his plantation resort in Iloilo, along with a caregiver school and an SUV.

Sandiganbayan sheriffs seized the properties after securing a certification from Baguio City assessor Estrella Tano that the 1,000 sq m lot in a proposed subdivision on Demonstration Road, Loakan, and another lot on Cliff Drive, also in Loakan, were owned by Garcia.

Armand N. Nocum

No objection to Erap bid to attend FPJ funeral

GOVERNMENT prosecutors are not opposed to ousted President Joseph Estrada's request to attend the wake and funeral of his buddy Fernando Poe Jr., so long as the police can provide adequate protection to Estrada as well as stop any possible trouble resulting from his presence among his and Poe's rabid followers.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villanueva said they also would not oppose Estrada's plan to visit his mother at her San Juan residence but drew the line as far as his going to Hong Kong to undergo knee-replacement operation is concerned.

"We remain opposed to his trip to Hong Kong because there are competent doctors and state-of-the-art hospitals here that can successfully handle operations such as that to be performed on the former President," Villanueva said in telephone interview.

As to Estrada's request to attend Poe's wake at the Sto. Domingo Church and his Dec. 22 burial, Villanueva said the only condition is that police provide enough security to keep the Estrada and Poe loyalists in check.

Armand N. Nocum

Reyes back as antismuggling czar

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes is back as antismuggling czar.

President Macapagal-Arroyo reactivated a Presidential Task Force Against Smuggling headed by Reyes after initially giving complete powers to Customs Commissioner Jorge Jerezo to run after smugglers.

But the new presidential task force is taking it easy on big-time smugglers, whom the President ordered identified and paraded before the public like kidnappers and bank robbers.

In a brief conference in Malacañang, Reyes said he was not bent on coming up with his

own Order of Battle of big-time smugglers.

"You know it's difficult to come up with the list and publish it, unless you have evidence that will stand in court," Reyes said.

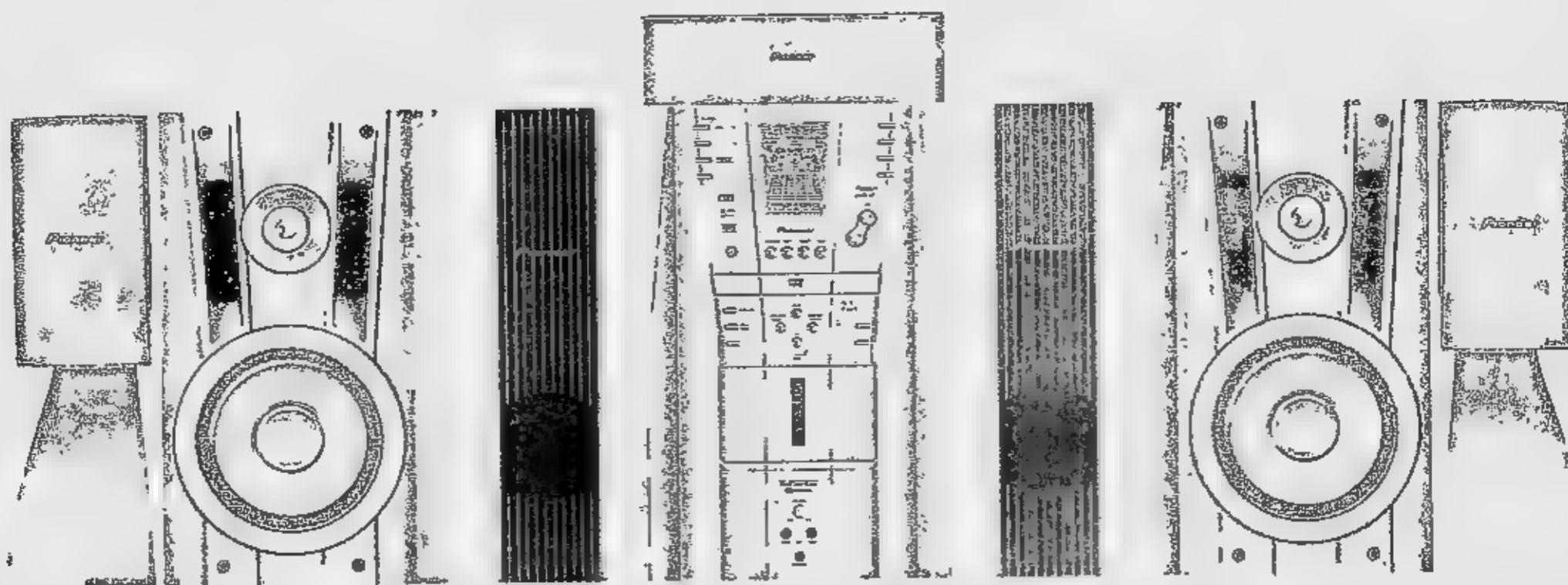
He said it was easy to plaster the names and pictures of kidnappers because they have warrants of arrest.

"If we do not have the warrant of arrest of people, it would mean libelous to label them as criminals," Reyes said.

When Jerezo was appointed antismuggling czar months ago, the President ordered him to come up with the Order of Battle and produce results within two months.

WANTED

Satisfied owners of the most stylish DVD Mini System.



EV99DVD

Watch out for the EV99DVD from Pioneer. Wearing a streamlined design with sleek lines, smooth silver finish that has drawn stares from the local population. The EV99DVD is reportedly armed with a 5-speaker system with dual subwoofers and has been known to possess full Karaoke Functions. Last seen playing DVD, VCD, CD, WMA, MP3 and JPEG for satisfied buyers. If you come across an EV99DVD Mini System at your nearest Pioneer dealer, grab one immediately!

Also available: EV66DVD and EV33DVD Mini Systems.



EV33DVD

EV66DVD



Visit us at www.pioneer.com.sg or email us at mgme@compass.com.ph

Pioneer sound.vision.soul

GMA urged to create 'action group' vs illegal logging

By Carlo Pablo

THE CO-CHAIR of the powerful Commission on Appointments has recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo the creation of an "action group" to come up with a unified plan to fight illegal logging.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) wrote Ms Arroyo about the need to

convene such a group to "address the extremely urgent need to find immediate and long term solutions to the problems of the forest areas of the country."

Pichay stopped short of saying that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources was incapable of addressing illegal logging.

"While the DENR is the execu-

tive department principally responsible in this area of concern, it would be better to make it a member of the action group in order that the necessary correction in regulation and personnel can be implemented instantaneously," Pichay said in his letter.

Pichay suggested that the action group be composed of the respective chairpersons of the

Senate and House committees on environment and natural resources, DENR, Department of Interior and Local Government, law enforcement agencies, and representatives from the wood industry and the academe.

Aside from stopping illegal logging, the action group, according to Pichay, can include in its plan the implementation

of a viable tree plantation and reforestation program, alternative to temper the effects of a total halt in illegal logging on people dependent on wood for livelihood, and prevention of the occurrence of disasters and prevention of loss of lives in forest areas.

Pichay said the action group should be able to formulate without delay a working plan within a

period of 30 days or 60 days at the most since appropriate forest laws and regulations were already in place.

"The doable immediate step is to force compliance through a system that will be checked by the same legislative committees responsible for writing the laws and which exercise oversight powers," Pichay said.

Political will wins half the battle vs corruption, says HK graft buster

By Juliet Labog-Javelana

HALF the battle against corruption will be won if government exercises political will in cleaning up the system, according to the man credited with turning around Hong Kong's image from the most corrupt to a graft-free economy.

"We need tough political will in order to battle corruption," said Tony Man-wai Kwok, former deputy commissioner and head of operations of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, who opened a three-day workshop yesterday on the theme "Countering corruption through integrity development: A key to economic competitiveness."

President Macapagal-Arroyo invited Kwok to share Hong Kong's experience in fighting corruption with Cabinet and sub-Cabinet officials.

The President said she wanted to adopt Hong Kong's model, particularly Kwok's work at the ICAC, as the template for her anti-corruption campaign.

Kwok, who served for 35 years in customs control, drug enforcement, finance investigation, intelligence and prosecution, joined ICAC as an investigator when it was established in 1975. He rose to the post of deputy commissioner and head of operations in 1996 and led the agency through Hong Kong's reunification with China in 1997.

Among his achievements was the investigation of the collapse of Hong Kong's third largest bank which involved a loss of \$385 million. His operation led to five convictions.

Kwok received a Governor's Commendation and the ICAC Distinguished Service Medal in 1998.

In a brief talk, Kwok assured the country's top officials that corruption, no matter how pervasive its reach in government and the political system, can be eradicated.

He said half the battle would be won if the top government leadership wields the political will to combat corruption.

Kwok said corruption prevention was a management solution that needs the cooperation of all sectors.

"We cannot rely on a single agency, everybody needs to respond in fighting corruption," he said, adding that a comprehensive solution is in order to root out corruption.

Another International anti-corruption ex-

pert, Fredrik Galtung, said the Philippines had a "catalytic role" in the international campaign against corruption because of the Edsa people power revolution that overthrew a dictator and restored democracy.

Because of Edsa, the Philippine story has been an "incredibly inspirational" model for the world, said Galtung, the executive director of TIRI (governance access learning network of Norway) whose expertise has been tapped by the United Nations, the World Bank, presidents and organizations in different countries.

But Galtung, a founding member and research head of Transparency International, said the Philippines now faces "enormous challenges" in implementing its anti-corruption campaign.

Galtung said the Global Corruption Barometer, which he devised, found a "global consensus" that political parties are the most corrupt institutions.

"It is the tragedy of democracy," he said. The police ranks second to politicians in terms of corruption, said Galtung.

Ms Arroyo, who sat through the workshop, talked about her anti-corruption campaign in a separate event, the 2004 presidential awards for Filipino individuals and organizations overseas of the Commission on Overseas Filipinos.

In her speech at the COF event, the President said 2004 was a "banner year for our campaign against corruption."

"Lifestyle checks have resulted in actual convictions and an increase in the number of cases filed against corrupt officials," Ms Arroyo said.

"A two-star general is now facing court-martial for graft. Others will follow suit as my administration seeks to carve out the cancer of corruption from the bureaucracy, and our society as a whole," she said.

She urged the overseas Filipinos to "act as our very best marketing agents abroad."

"Tell your friends and associates about our reform agenda to clean up government, cut red tape, reduce crime and promote a friendly and predictable business climate," Ms Arroyo said.

She expressed confidence that with Dante Ang as new chair of the COF, the commission would devise programs to promote the Philippines as an investment haven and encourage Filipinos abroad to play an active role in the country's economic and political development.

Christmas List

POWER PACKED JUGS

Limited edition Coleman Jugs!

COLEMAN NETWORK

Facial Care Centre

Skin Whitening Breakthrough

Shiroi Active Whitening Treatment

Originated in Japan, the treatment promotes skin clarity for hyper-pigmentation problems and stabilizes skin tone over dark, blotchy areas. So whether you have sun-darkened or naturally born dark skin, Shiroi Active Whitening Treatment will make your skin fairer, whiter, after only a few treatments.

Experience skin whitening that's beyond anything you've ever imagined.

Call Facial Care Centre NOW.

WHITE CHRISTMAS TREATMENT

WHITENING TREATMENTS

ON DECEMBER 13-18, 2004 ONLY.

Facial Care Centre

Where Beautiful Skin Happens

CALL 892-SKIN (7548)

BAKAT
892-81 8000

ORIENTAL
892-81 8000

QUEZON CITY
892-81 8000

SHAW
892-81 8000

SMONDO
892-81 8000

CONGRESSIONAL
892-81 8000

PAMPANGA
892-81 8000

CEBU
892-81 8000

US asked to clarify visa restrictions for RP nurses

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINES would seek a clarification on the status of the visa applications of the thousands of United States-bound Filipino nurses now pending with the US government, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday.

The US State Department issued a bulletin last week, saying that only those who applied for employment-based immigration visa, or E3 visa, on or before Jan. 1, 2002, would be able to obtain visas starting next year.

Apart from nurses, teachers,

some accountants and IT workers, among others, can apply for E3 visas, according to the US Embassy.

Romulo said he would ask Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario to clarify the State Department's announcement, which was seen to extend the processing of US work permits from the normal 60 days to three years or more.

"(We'll ask him to discuss) the situation of the nurses," he told reporters. "We keep pushing the envelope. That's our job. And besides, this is especially true with Japan and Europe. Filipinos have

proven themselves."

"We'll make representations with the US government," another official added, even as he voiced confidence that the US government would eventually relax its new regulation to accommodate the applications of "skilled Filipino nurses."

The US Embassy in Manila explained that Washington's decision to retrograde the processing of applications for E3 visas was based on its "calculation of worldwide demand" in that visa category.

"Because the demand for E3

visas could not be satisfied within the legal limits, the foreign states where demand was oversubscribed, such as China, India and the Philippines, needed to be retrogressed," it said in a statement.

Retrogression happens when a visa category becomes oversubscribed, or when the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of visas available. As a result, visa numbers were issued according to the date the petitions were filed, the embassy said.

According to the embassy, the US Immigration and Nationality Act sets the annual worldwide

minimum for employment-based preference immigrants of 140,000.

"The embassy will continue to process E3 applications for Philippine applicants who are eligible for a visa number. Even as the retrogression takes effect in January, a number of Philippines' E3 applicants will be scheduled for visa interviews and will be issued E3 visas if found qualified," the embassy said.

Apart from the Philippines, India and China, countries with huge demand for such type of visas are also affected by the retro-

gression policy, the embassy said.

"Contrary to some media reports, this measure does not apply solely to the Philippines. This is a worldwide change and affects countries with high demand for employment-based immigration visas such as China and India," it said in a statement.

The E3 visa is one of five employment-based immigrant visas. Its category includes aliens with minimum two-year experience as skilled workers, professionals with a baccalaureate degree, and other workers with less than two years' experience.

Only 5 Cabinet members pass CA; Reyes bypassed

By Christine O. Avendaño

ONLY five members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet received the nod of the Commission on Appointments (CA), which held its last session for the year yesterday.

All other Cabinet members and members of constitutional bodies like the Commission on Elections are considered bypassed, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon, who chairs the CA.

The latest to be confirmed by the CA were Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, whose nominations were approved by the commission yesterday.

The CA had earlier confirmed the appointments of Education Secretary Florencio Abad, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano and Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene Villa.

In a news conference, Drilon said the Cabinet members deemed bypassed need to be reappointed by Ms Arroyo. "Otherwise, they cannot function any longer as members of the Cabinet," he said.



REYES

Among those deemed bypassed was Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, who was the only Cabinet member heard by the CA this year that did not make it.

Reyes faced a CA subcommittee late last month but the hearing was suspended as more senators wanted to question him. Senators were particularly interested in the frequent travels abroad of Reyes' wife.

Drilon also disclosed that Ms Arroyo did not submit to

the commission the appointments of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and Public Works and Highways Secretary Florante Sonquez.

"We do not know the intention of the President but we hope that (she) can decide quickly on these two Cabinet members because they cannot forever be in an acting capacity," he told reporters.

Drilon warned anew Cabinet members to complete the documentary requirements, saying that "there is a danger that the CA may simply decide to reject their appointments if they continue to refuse to submit their documentation."

Publisher, DepEd execs behind erroneous book may face charges

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE DEPARTMENT of Education said it might bring to court a major publishing firm and at least three senior education officials responsible for the highly erroneous history textbook used by high school students for the last 13 years.

Secretary Florencio Abad announced that the DepEd is studying possible "civil and administrative" charges against SD Publications and three senior DepEd officials (one is retired) who were behind "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap."

The same charges will also likely be filed against the other DepEd officials who evaluated and approved "Asya" for use in public schools in 1997, 1999 and 2001.

On Tuesday, Abad said he had ordered the unprecedented recall of all the 1.14 million copies of "Asya" from public schools.

"Asya" would be replaced by a new "handbook" titled "Pag-aaral ng Mga Bansang Asyano" written by 19 noted history and social sciences professors from the University of the Philippines led by Prof. Grace Estela Mateo.

"The next step that we'll do after we

complete (replacing "Asya") is that we'll have Undersecretary (for legal affairs Jose Luis) Gascon and a pool of lawyers look at possible civil and administrative accountability. We're studying the matter," Abad said.

It was so far Abad's most categorical response on the issue of accountability since Marian School supervisor Antonio Go exposed the book's gross errors in an ad in the INQUIRER last Sept. 20.

The DepEd eventually admitted that Go was right after UP history professors confirmed that the 316-page "Asya" was riddled with numerous factual, conceptual and grammatical errors.

SD Publications was told to shoulder the cost of printing and delivering the replacement textbooks to 5,700 public high schools throughout in the country.

Its parent company, Vibra Publishing House, is among the biggest publishing firms in the country. As such, it is DepEd's biggest supplier of textbooks.

Three authors are senior DepEd officials. Evelina Villoria is an assistant superintendent while Ruth Puentes is a supervisor at the DepEd National Capital Region office. Lead author Teofista

Vivar is a retired superintendent.

The fourth author, Remedios Quiray, has passed away.

Abad said he saw no conflict of interest in the fact that Vivar, Villoria and Puentes authored a textbook which the DepEd eventually approved for use in public schools.

"In fact, we encourage our teachers to write books. But they are prohibited from being publishers," Abad said.

"Asya" passed the evaluation of the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat, the DepEd bureau in charge of approving textbook content, three times in 1997, 1999 and 2001.

The textbook, however, has been used by private schools since 1991.

One of the three evaluators who originally approved the highly erroneous "Asya" for use by public schools is still working with the DepEd. Officials did not identify the evaluators.

In 1999 and 2001, SD Publications won the contract to supply all history textbooks for public high schools. "Asya" is used by second-year high school students.

Go said he found similar gross errors in "Kasaysayan ng Daigdig," the history textbook used by fourth-year students.

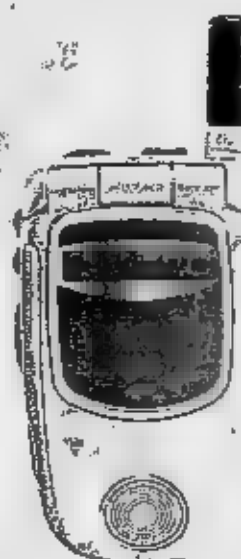
"IMX Telematics Helps Keep Our Costs Down And Our Profits Up."

Like Mr. Jack Po and his Asian Spirit crew, your business can fly high with IMX Telematics — the seamless integration of mobile communications with computer technologies that lets you:

- Track your network— be it people, vehicles, packages, or transactions— in real time
- Reduce transaction and handling time
- Cut payroll and operating costs
- Increase productivity and efficiency
- Correlate performance against set standards for continuous improvement

The IMX Push-to-Talk mobile phones are now embedded with a cutting-edge Telematics software system which, when installed in your corporate server, can provide you real time data on every transaction that takes place, matching quality of work and personnel accountability. You're able to detect work inefficiencies and correct them on the fly to deliver significant savings to your bottomline. That means beating your competitors by doing more with less. That means operational excellence that leads to market leadership. Call or see us today and find out that when it comes to expanding your horizons in business, sky's the limit with Telematics-embedded IMX mobile phones.

MOBILE INTERNET
365
DAYS
UNLIMITED
SERVICE
TALK • TEXT



For a free demo, call (02) 786 2222

NEXT MOBILE BUSINESS CENTERS

CORON
IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

MANILA

6th Floor Mobile Bldg.
2544 Ermita, Manila,
Bancor, Manila
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

BOHOL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

CELESTIAL

IMF Grand Bazaar Bldg.
Ermita, Manila, Origan Center,
Pang City
Tel: (02) 786 2222

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

8th Ave. Electronic City
Alabang Town Center
Level 2, Expansion Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa

Wireless Smart-LA

Level 5, Sogo-Plaza Mall,
Mandaluyong City
Tel: (02) 833 9472

When it's mission critical



www.imx.ph

Guards of Japanese film crew bag 2 Abus

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Soldiers guarding a Japanese film crew in Tawi-Tawi captured two members of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf Muslim kidnapping group, military officials said yesterday.

The Marine unit—guarding a group of Japanese shooting a documentary on ethnic

Muslims on the island of Sitangkai—noticed a boat with the suspects aboard sailing close to the film crew last weekend, said Marine spokesperson Capt. Rommel Abrau.

"The Marine soldiers intercepted the Abu Sayyaf boat and arrested the two and confiscated two automatic rifles," he said. **APP**

CHRISTMAS SALE

24 DAYS LEFT!

December 8, 2004 to January 8, 2005
ON SELECTED IMPORTED BEDROOM PACKAGES

Sweet Sophistication This December

W-640-2-800 (115cm x 200cm) KING
Ambassador Plus Mattress 78 x 80

W-262 Night Stand
OF-182 Desk With Drawers
C-66 Chair
Comforter White (Brown L)
Thinner Pillow Case 28 x 28
PC-1 Color Walnut String
(24" x 24" D- Brown)

Feder

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

The Biggest Lifestyle Center

229 Don Chino Reyes Avenue, Near Center EDSA, Makati City • Tel. 883-8833 • 883-8888 • OPEN MONDAYS THRU SUNDAYS from 8:30 AM to 7:30 PM
*ACCESSORIES NOT SHOWN

Characters UNLIMITED

Christmas Specialty

Backpack 9" P 229.75

Handbag P 199.75

Wallet P 179.75

Pass case P 129.75

ROBBY towel & juice set inside

Backpack 8" P 199.75

Fashion bag P 179.75

Backpack 10" P 249.75

2-fold wallet P 179.75

Backpack 8" P 199.75

Robby Rabbit the most lovable rabbit

ROBINSON - DMIA, Manila
- B&S, Cebu
- TUBURAN CENTERMALL, Manila
- FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, Alabang
- PAVILION MALL, Bilibon, Cebu

RIVERBANKS MALL, Marikina
- MAGIC SHARMALL, Marikina City
- Metro Shoppers Metrotown Mall, Taguig City

WHOLESALE OUTLET
- 845 JUAN VERA BLVD., MARICINA
- 004 STA. ELENA ST. BINHONG, Manila

Our way of saying **THANK YOU** for making us the

No.1

Chinese Restaurant in Metro Manila

TANG CITY

CHINESE RESTAURANT

NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE ANNUAL AWARD

TANG CITY

as awarded by the 2004 National Shoppers' Choice Award and the Philippine Business Excellence Award.

And to express our gratitude we are offering you this Special **THANK YOU** Promo to make your holiday celebrations not only special but healthy as well.

GOOD FOR 4-6 PERSONS WITH 1 DELICIOUS DISHES

1,680

- Cold Cut Roasting Combination
- Green Seafood Soup
- Steamed King Fish w/ Soy Sauce

1,800

- Roast Duck Combination
- Fat Beef w/ Mushroom Soup
- Steamed Lopu-Lapu w/ Soy Sauce

Plus your choice of any of the following:

- Spicy Spare Ribs
- Golden Brown Spare Ribs
- Sweet & Sour Pork
- Shanghai Lumpia
- Tung's Spicy Pork w/ Vegetables
- Eggplant w/ Minced Pork in Pot
- Stewed Beef w/ Ampalaya
- Beef Brisket w/ Special Sauce
- Sizzling Beef Tenderloin
- Lemon Chicken
- Fried Chicken w/ Beancurd Sauce
- Crispy Fried Chicken
- Chicken Hot Salad
- Spicy Squid
- Deep Fried Squid
- Mapu Tofu
- Crispy Beancurd
- Steamed Patola w/ Golden Garlic

FREE Fried Rice Beancurd Fried Noodle

• Makati: G/F, Makati Tower, Gloria 2, Ayala Center, Makati City Tel. 816-1340 www.tangcity.com

• BRUNIA, MANILA 523-1818/523-1919

UNBELIEVABLY TOUGH JUGS

Limited edition: Coleman Jugs!

INTRODUCED BY TONG

San Beda College Alabang

Don Manolo Boulevard, Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City
Formerly St. Benedict College

Announces the opening of EXTENSION COURSES

of SAN BEDA COLLEGE MANILA

in SAN BEDA COLLEGE ALABANG CAMPUS

Starting June 2005

A. COLLEGE OF LAW

Open only to incoming first year students

For inquiries please contact:

Tel. no.: (02) 842.35.11

B. GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

1. Master of Business Administration
2. Master in Entrepreneurial Management
3. Master of Business Administration – Organization Development

* Trimester; Saturday classes only

For inquiries please contact:

Tel. no.: (02) 809.17.82

PAASCU ACCREDITED/ CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATH

(Southern Metropolis, as recognized by DEPED Muntinlupa)

PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Preschool, Grade One, and Grade Two)

LEVEL

AGE

REQUIREMENTS

Nursery	3.6 – 4.5
Kindergarten	4.6 – 5.5
Prep	5.6 – 6.5

1. Original or Certified true copy and one (1) photocopy each of Birth and Baptismal certificates (NSO authenticated)
2. Four (4) pieces 2x2 color pictures in red background with name written at the back
3. Non refundable application and testing fee of P500.00

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADE ONE AND GRADE TWO

4. Two (2) accomplished recommendation forms in sealed envelopes (use San Beda Alabang forms)
5. Certified true copy of latest grades with no failing marks.

GRADESCHOOL

(Grade One to Grade Six) – all requirements mentioned for primary

HIGHSCHOOL

(First to Fourth Year) – all requirements mentioned for primary

For inquiries please contact:

THE ADMISSIONS, SCHOLARSHIP, AND PLACEMENT OFFICE

Direct Line and Telefax 809-7052

Trunk Lines 772-2358, 809-1781, 809-1793, 842-3508 local 237

ANNOUNCES THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES COURSE OFFERINGS

Bachelor of Arts International Studies

- Major in Asia Pacific Studies
- Major in Tourism Management

Bachelor of Science in Legal Management

Bachelor of Science in Accountancy

Bachelor of Science in Business Management

- Major in Entrepreneurship
- Major in Marketing and Sales
- Major in Management of Financial Institutions

Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Media Studies

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Bachelor of Science in Information Management

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

- Major in Systems Development
- Major in Network Administration

Starting Academic Year 2005-2006

Extension of San Beda College Manila

- College of Law
- Graduate School of Business

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Photocopy of Birth Certificate (NSO Authenticated)
2. Photocopy of Baptismal Certificate
3. Two (2) accomplished recommendation forms in 2 sealed envelopes (must use San Beda Alabang form issued with the application form)
4. Certified true copy of third year report card and two (2) copies of fourth year grades for first and second quarters
5. Certificate of Good Moral characters
6. Four (4) Pieces 2x2 color pictures in red background with name written at the back
7. Transcript of record or Certification of grades with subject description (for transferees)
8. Non-refundable application and testing fee of 500.00 pesos.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS:

1. All requirements mentioned
2. Certified true copy of grades
3. Original/photocopy of passport
4. Study Permit
5. ACR/ICR

Non-refundable application and testing fee of 1,000.00



FORMERLY conjoined twins Clarence (left) and Carl Aguirre are inseparable during playtime at the New York hospital where surgeons separated their skulls and manipulated their brains apart four months ago. AP

Separated twins now ready for skull repair surgery

DESPITE some minor problems, formerly conjoined twins Carl and Clarence Aguirre are doing well enough to return to the operating room for the beginning of the reconstruction of their skulls, doctors said Tuesday.

On Wednesday morning, the 2 1/2-year-old twins from the Philippines will separately undergo procedures to patch bald spots on their heads, the most obvious reminder of the four operations they underwent at Montefiore Medical Center leading to their Aug. 4 separation.

Dr. David Staffenberg, their plastic surgeon, plans to shave a thin layer of skin from high on their legs and graft it to the bald

spots. Carl has two small bald spots near the top of his head; Clarence needs work on about a third of his scalp, Staffenberg said.

The boys' scalps have to be restored and healed before skull reconstruction can begin because blood flow to the scalp helps heal restored skull bone.

While the boys are anesthetized, doctors with scopes will use the opportunity to examine them to study two nagging problems: acid reflux and sleep apnea, said their pediatrician, Dr. Robert Maron.

He said a muscle between the esophagus and stomach is weak in both boys and apparently is not closing properly, sending food

back into the esophagus and causing spitups and possibly some burning. The weakness, which could be repaired surgically, is compounding the feeding problems that stem from the boys' position when they were connected, when they had to be fed lying down.

The sleeping problem will be investigated by an ear-nose-and-throat specialist. Maron said the boys are "night people," staying up late and sleeping until late morning, and both have a snoring problem. The doctors will look for physical causes and Maron suggested that removing the tonsils or adenoids might solve the problem. AP

2 coal miners found dead; 4 still missing

RESCUERS recovered two bodies from a collapsed mine shaft in Zamboanga Sibugay and searched yesterday for four missing miners after hearing muffled voices coming from the mine, police and the mining company said.

The government-run Philippine National Oil Company Exploration Corp. said six miners were trapped Tuesday when the roof of the 56-meter-deep shaft collapsed in Diplohan town.

Company spokesman Rudolph Dimen said two dead miners were found about 47 meters down the shaft, while the others were believed trapped at a depth of about 56 meters.

"We have proof of life," he told The Associated Press. "Our rescue teams can hear muffled voices."

An air hose leading down the shaft where the four miners are believed located was tugged "probably to show that they are still there," he said.

Regional police chief Vidal Querol told dzMM radio it was initially suspected a heavy downpour caused water seepage that led to the collapse.

The shaft has been operated jointly with Taiwan Overseas Mining Co. since 1999. AP

True idea

It's an assurance of only the very best.

STYLISH POWER

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, December 16, 2004
3rd Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 54:1-10
Gospel: Lk 7:24-30

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began speaking to the people about John. And he said, "What did you want to see when you went to the desert? A tall reed blowing in the wind? What was there to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? But people who wear fine clothes and enjoy delicate food are found in palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. For John is the one foretold in Scripture in these words: I am sending my messenger ahead of you to prepare your ways. No one may be found greater than John among those born of women but, I tell you, the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

All the people listening to him, even the tax collectors, had acknowledged the will of God in receiving the baptism of John, whereas the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law, in not letting themselves be baptized by him, ignored the will of God.

Commentary

Johann Tauler (1300-1361) wrote, "St. John wrote of [John the Baptist] that he was a witness to the light... What higher praise could we give to this Saint than to call him 'a witness to the light?' This light sheds its rays into the innermost and furthest depths of our souls, teaching us stability and strength. When we have received this witness we become immovable, like a mountain of iron, instead of being swayed to and fro like a reed.

Our Lord also said, 'He is more than a prophet,' that is, there are depths in us which reason cannot touch, where in the light we see light—that is, in an inward light, the light of grace... This comes to us first in a hidden manner, for our faculties cannot come within a thousand miles of these depths of our soul. The knowledge which instructs us in these depths has neither image nor form nor manner; it has no parts which can be separately recognized; it is an unfathomable abyss, not to be limited, not to be plumbed, ebbing and flowing like the sea. As we sink into it, it may seem empty and dry, yet in a moment it may well up and overflow as if it would engulf all things. We sink into this abyss, and in it is God's true dwelling place, more than in heaven or in all His creatures. Those who could find their way here would truly find God here, and would find themselves at one with God, for God never leaves this abyss. God would be present to them, and here they would apprehend and delight in eternity, for here there is neither past nor future. There is no created light which can reach these depths or illumine them, for this is nothing else than God's dwelling, God's own place."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: info@claret.org; Websites: <http://www.bible-claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://missionaries.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)

NEW SC-VK91D 7300W PMPO

True Home Theater Entertainment
with 5.1ch Surround Sound
Features a 5.1ch surround sound system
Dolby Digital and DTS decoder to let you
enjoy movie theater sound and atmosphere.

Twin Subwoofer System
Equipped with newly-developed aluminum cones
with outstanding characteristics that let you
experience powerful cinema sound bass.

Multi-Amp System
Comes with a main 3-way 3-speaker system featuring
one tweeter, one woofer and one super woofer each
for the L/R channels, plus two subwoofer systems
with twin mounted aluminum cone subwoofers,
a 2-way 3-speaker center speaker, and two 2-way
2-speaker surround speakers for a total of 17 speakers.

Panasonic
ideas for life

www.panasonic.com.ph

DVD Movie, Microphone and Software Rack for every purchase of a Panasonic DVD Mini Component.
Promo period is from Nov. 20, 2004 to Dec. 31, 2004. For DTI-MCR Permit No. 2871 Series of 2004

Congress approves 'sin tax' measure

From page A1

reconcile Senate Bill No. 1815 and House Bill No. 3174.

Senators Ralph Recto, Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Lito Lapid represented the majority bloc in the bicameral conference, while Senators Enrile, Edgardo Angara and Jinggoy Estrada represented the minority.

On Tuesday night, the Senate approved its own version that sought to generate P18 billion in revenues or more than double the amount targeted by the bill that the House of Representatives earlier approved.

GMA relieved

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the revenue target of the Senate-approved bill was double the P9 billion in projected revenue on sin taxes "as found in

the medium-term development plan of the executive department."

President Arroyo sounded more relieved than elated after getting word that the Senate had finally approved its version of the sin tax bill more than a month after the House passed its version.

"I thank the Senate in behalf of our people for passing the tax on cigarette and alcohol. This is a great breakthrough in our political unity and solidarity behind fiscal reform," said President Arroyo in a speech at the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission workshop in Malacañang yesterday.

Analysts said investors at the stock market mildly cheered the Senate's move to pass a version of the sin tax bill, saying this is a step to get Congress moving toward passing a revenue measure before Christmas.

"I hope that the bicameral talks will seal it. We are confident statesmanship will rule at the highest level of debates," said Ms. Arroyo, who was well aware that the passage of the first of her eight tax measures before her self-imposed deadline of the end of this year was not yet in the bag.

Four revenues

She had boasted last month that her allies who dominate Congress have pledged to approve up to four revenue measures from her tax agenda before the end of this year.

But less than a week before Congress breaks up for its holiday recess, the President's allies have so far come short of their promise. The President did not say if she still expected the sin tax bill approved before the end of this year.

"We do not expect that there will be difficulties (during the bicameral conference committee meeting) and we are confident that we will have the sin taxes signed," Drilon said.

High rates for low-end cigs

Two senators decried the passage of the sin tax bill, which sought higher rates for low-priced brands of cigarettes.

They noted that although the total tax take of the sin taxes for next year alone could reach P18 billion as projected by Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, the burden would fall on the low-end brands usually consumed by poor smokers.

The Senate version, which seeks higher tax revenues, imposed a heavy burden on tobacco products.

The senators, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER that

they were taken for a ride by fellow members of the upper chamber who approved the sin taxes Tuesday night without taking into account the welfare of those consuming locally manufactured cigarettes.

"We were made to believe that we would be given ample time to interpellate the sponsor of the measure even during the period of individual amendments," said one senator.

"That's why we had agreed early on to dispense with interpellations to speed up the floor debates," he said, adding that "but, of course, without sacrificing the quality of legislation."

Done deal

The second senator then said that the moral of the story was: "Don't rush tax measures."

Both senators admitted that they felt cheated by more senior senators after learning that even before the chamber could finish

floor deliberations on the sin taxes, the final form of the bill was already a done deal.

The Senate version more than doubled the excise tax on low-tier brands of cigarettes such as Fortune and Champion (manufactured by Fortune Tobacco), but it imposed moderate increases on the other four tiers: native, medium, high and premium.

Appeasing Philip Morris

The two senators admitted that the Senate compromised version would appease Philip Morris, which controls 36 percent of the market (P18 billion in gross sales).

Fortune Tobacco, owned by business tycoon Lucio Tan, controls 54 percent of the market (P27 billion in gross sales) while La Suerie retains 6 percent (P3 billion in gross sales). With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Elizabeth Sanchez

Filipinos have forgotten what 'simbang gabi' is for—for farmers

From page A1

the agricultural sector, a recognition of the agrarian moorings of much of the Philippines. But Filipino Catholics seem to have forgotten.

Their short memory is apparent in the decision of several parishes in Metro Manila, for instance, to reschedule the traditional Christmas Masses from its original dawn setting to late evening, since it is quite difficult for city denizens to wake up early in the morning to fulfill the novena.

Debasement?

Some have lamented the new practice as a debasement of tradition, an accommodation to the materialism of the era.

Actually, the rescheduling is merely a restoration of the old practice of holding Masses at midnight in the run-up to Christmas. That's why in Europe, where the practice originated, the Mass is known as "midnight Mass."

The revisionism really started with the Spanish friars whose work of evangelization in the islands was so surefooted and creative, they made the Philippines

the only Christian nation in Asia, at least until East Timor, which was also successfully Christianized by their Latin brothers, the Portuguese, became an independent nation-state.

Noting the Filipinos' love of the liturgy and extended rituals like novenas, the Spanish friars promoted the Christmas Masses. But they introduced an innovation. They held the Mass at dawn in order to fit it into the agricultural rhythm of the farmers, who usually woke up early to work the fields and retired early to prepare for work the next day. That's why the Mass became known as *Misa de Gallo*, Mass of the Rooster.

Ordinary folk lifestyle

The innovation shows why the Augustinians, Franciscans, Dominicans and Recollects were such effective evangelizers. They did not impose the Gospel, they applied and crafted it to suit the lifestyle of the ordinary folk. They were doing contextual theology even before 20th century theologians thought of coming up with the modern concept.

So before the farmers went to work and tilled the fields, they went to dawn Masses to pray for

the birth of Christ and, by extension, for a generous yield. Thus the birth of Christ and the bounty of the land complemented one another. The Christian message found fruition in the farmer's labors and struggles.

Culinary treats

The agrarian basis of the *simbang gabi* is obvious in the culinary treats that have become part and parcel of the ritual: the *bibingka* (pancake made from finely ground sticky rice garnished with carabao milk cheese and grated coconut filings), the *puto-bungong* (sticky rice cake steamed in bamboo shoots), and *salabat* (strong ginger tea).

There's nothing essentially wrong with rescheduling the dawn Masses to midnight to suit the working routine and biological clock of urban people. After all, the Mass is for the people, not the people for the Mass.

But urban Filipinos, many of whom are refugees themselves from rural poverty, tend to forget the struggles and pains of the agricultural sector.

Indeed, economists and experts say that agriculture is severely penalized in the Philippines in the rush to industrialization, as shown by the untrammeled commercial logging in eastern Luzon that caused the disastrous flooding and landslides last Nov. 29 and the days following.

Treated poorly

Despite the agricultural makeup of the Philippines, agriculture is poorly treated in public policy and program. Commercial banks hardly provide agricultural credit, leaving farmers to the tender mercies of usurers and loan sharks. Seed and fertilizer prices are high because of monopolies.

Because of the lack of farm-to-market roads, farmers are compelled to rely on middlemen who pay them depressed prices and sell the goods at handsome prices. If there are roads for the transport of goods, the farmer has to pay "toll fees" at police and military checkpoints.

The neglect of farmers ex-

plains the lingering feudal question in the Philippines that has fueled the battle over land reform, the Hacienda Luisita labor dispute and rural underdevelopment.

In more ways than one, the *Misa de Gallo* prefigures the agrarian crisis that continues to rage in the country.

Forgotten, too

The Christ of Christmas seems to have been forgotten, too.

One Christmas symbol that is universally accepted and dearly loved is the crèche, called the "belen" or the Nativity scene in the Philippines.

"Unfortunately, this symbol which was started by St. Francis of Assisi, is the target of a lot of anti-Christian sentiments in the West," Fr. Nicanor Lalag of the Diocese of Malolos told his congregation this morning during the first dawn Mass of 2004.

"Last week, there were calls in its land of origin, Italy, that the crèche should not be displayed in public places. I have seen such

similar protests on US primetime news last year during my vacation there," Lalag said.

He said that in one television survey, American kids, when asked whose birthday was being celebrated on Christmas, answered, "Santa Claus." The priest said the survey confirmed the extreme commercialization of Christmas.

But adults are to blame, Lalag said. He said the materialistic attitude of adults is adumbrated in the Gospel reading today in which Jesus gently chided the crowds for looking at John the Baptist as a miracle worker.

Personal ends

Lalag said Christians may be using Christmas for their own personal ends: "In the same manner, maybe the Lord is asking us tonight: What did you go out for this *simbang gabi*? For a job? For healing? For a girlfriend or boyfriend? Why are we so fond of competing the nine-night novena for Christmas? Is it because we want something or because we want Jesus?"

No holiday Palace parties but GMA will play Santa



"PANAW SA KALINAW" CONFERENCE STATEMENT

Calling for a Typhoon-Related Humanitarian Ceasefire
Between the Armed Forces of the Philippines/Philippine National Police
and the New People's Army
in Luzon until the end of the Christmas Season

We are the participants of the successful "Panaw sa Kalinaw" (Gateway to Peace) Conference from 2-4 December 2004 in Davao City. We come from various peace zones: Sanctuaries for Peace, Spots for Peace, and other peace-building communities, NGOs, LGU officials and peace advocates from Mindanao, Visayas and Luzon who shared, learned, and renewed hopes and commitment for peace. Even as we celebrated this significant coming together of generous peace builders, we followed with increasing concern and then grief the continuing scourge of the recent massive typhoons in Luzon. Indeed, some of us, participants, came from those typhoon-ravaged areas.

We are saddened by the many typhoon deaths of military, civil folk and particularly by the humanity through horrific deaths of our new-born peace zone members, Fr. Claudio Calabro, OBC, Director of the Province of Ilocos, Quezon, who helps from Marikina, North Cotabato. Fr. Calabro helped bring about the recent declaration of Ilocos as a "Zone of Peace, Environmental Development."

We are further saddened by and condemn the most recent ambush killing of a number of soldiers returning typhoon relief operations. This grieves against all sense of humanity, decency and fair play even in war, which has its limits. This step goes against any good political sense in winning the hearts and minds of people already under siege by the forces of terror.

We, therefore, call, first of all, for a credible investigation of this typhoon ambush incident by impartial human rights and humanitarian organizations with a view to ascertain responsibility and to seek into the land of resources that would prevent recurrence of this sort. Whoever may have been responsible, and in order to prevent another similar occurrence,

WE NOW CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE AND MUTUAL UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE FROM BOTH THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES/PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (AFP/PNP) AND THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA) AND OTHER REBEL GROUPS IN THE WHOLE OF LUZON, FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF THE COMING HOLIDAY SEASON, ON SUPREMACY HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW ONGOING TYPHOON RELIEF OPERATIONS FROM WHICHEVER SIDE, ENOUGH TIME AND SECURITY

WE ASK BOTH SIDES TO HONORANCE THEIR TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS SEASONS UNILATERAL CEASEFIRES, AT LEAST FOR LUZON. This we ask in the spirit of the season, the spirit of humanity, and the spirit of peace. We hope that this gesture of goodwill between enemies and for the people will somehow help end the Government of the Republic of the Philippines' National Democratic Front (GRP-NDF) peace process forward, together with the advance of the Mindanao Peace Process, we envision the whole Philippines becoming a zone of peace, freedom and development strategy.

Signed on this 4th Day of December 2004 in Davao City by participants and guests to the "Panaw sa Kalinaw" Peace Conference.

High Dr. Alan Corder
Chairman
Bamayan Development Agency

High Prof. Rudy Rold
Member
GRP-NDF Peace Negotiating Panel

High Major Angel Bantao
Member
Peace Panel of the Philippines

High Bayano Bantao
Executive Coordinator
Asian Development Foundation
Training Modules

High Sergio Villan
Philippine Council on Human Rights

High Lito Tordes
Chairman
GMA 7, Davao Peace Initiative

High Honorable Bantao
Secretary for Peace - General
Natalio

High V. Lito Tordes
Secretary for Peace - General
Natalio

High Salvador Duman
Secretary for Peace - General
Natalio

High Ramon Bantao
Secretary for Peace - General
Natalio

High Fr. Remy P. I. Bantao
Member
Peace Panel of the Philippines

High Lito Tordes
Chairman
GMA 7, Davao Peace Initiative

High Fr. Bantao Tordes
Archbishop of Cebu - SAC

High Fr. Bantao Tordes
Archbishop of Cebu - SAC

High Fr. Bantao Tordes
Archbishop of Cebu - SAC

High Fr. Bantao Tordes
Archbishop of Cebu - SAC

High Fr. Bantao Tordes
Archbishop of Cebu - SAC

High Fr. Bantao Tordes
Archbishop of Cebu - SAC

From page A1
of families in five typhoon-hit towns in northern and eastern Luzon. There will also be milk, clothes, candies and toys for children.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman yesterday said the government would distribute about P120 million worth of relief goods before Christmas Day.

"There is still Christmas," Soliman told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo. "Our message to all victims, especially to the children, is that there are many caring countrymen that will make them feel the true spirit of Christmas."

Singing soldiers will join artists, mostly from the Cultural Center of the Philippines, in performing "therapeutic art" during a series of variety shows set in Quezon, Nueva Ecija and Aurora that bore the brunt of the landslides and floods that left more than 1,800 people dead or missing in late November and early December.

Soliman said organizers were still deciding whether to put up individual shows in each barangay or just come up with one big Christmas caravan that would go around the typhoon-ravaged area.

Noche buena packs

The parties will provide a colorful occasion for the distribution of "noche buena" packs to each of the 32,000 families from the towns of Infanta, Real and General Nakar in Quezon. There will be around 30,000 beneficiaries in Dingalan, Aurora and Cabaldon, Nueva Ecija.

Each pack will contain ingredients for a modest Christmas Eve meal—spaghetti and ready-to-cook sauce, rice, canned goods, noodles, sugar and salt.

There will also be milk, candies and toys for children, and clothes coming from the P120 million worth of smuggled "ukay-ukay" (cheap used clothes) seized by the Bureau of Customs in Manila.

Soliman yesterday oversaw the transfer of 2,800 bales of smuggled used clothes to the military's relief center in Camp Aguinaldo.

Aid appeal aired in Hawaii

IN HONOLULU, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz on Tuesday appealed to Filipino-Americans to donate money and goods to assist the typhoon victims.

"Your ethnic brothers need a little help," said Cruz, who also serves as the chair of National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Cruz is scheduled to meet with US military officials in Honolulu.

"We still need donations as far as cash or relief goods because it's going to be a long, drawn-out affair," he said.

The Filipino-American community in Hawaii has already coordinated an aid campaign for the

Philippines. According to 2000 Census figures, Hawaii's 170,635 Filipino-Americans make up about 14 percent of the state population.

Cruz said assistance from the US military has been crucial in getting aid to remote areas that were hit the hardest and were inaccessible by land or sea. Roads were destroyed by mudslides and the waters were littered with floating logs.

The US military has pledged a dozen helicopters, hundreds of troops and two Navy ships to help with relief efforts. Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of the US Pacific Command, said American forces had so far helped deliver more than 200,000 pounds of relief supplies. Reuters/AP

Hunger hones storm victims' survival skills

From page A1

Nakar, after whom this town was named, the residents milled around a village official and clamored to see the list.

A man shouted: "Palakasan naman dito (You list down only those people you know)!"

To be listed is the thing

"Lista is the magic word here," said Toti Cuadro. "If you're not listed, or you don't have a card, you won't receive your goods."

Cuadro's three sons had tagged along, and, like their father, waited impatiently for what would have served as the family's breakfast, lunch and dinner.

To ensure his family's share, farmer Eduardo Avila volunteers as a "maghuhumal (loader)" of the relief goods.

"It's like food for work, ma'am," said Avila, a resident of the coastal village Minahan that was hit by landslides.

Jet fuel for light

Jeane Cruz, 45, has mastered the sound of a Huey helicopter preparing for landing.

Holding a small empty plastic bottle, she ran toward the Vietnam War-vintage chopper and begged the pilot to give her some Jet A-1 fuel.

"It's the lamp, sir," said Cruz, who had walked all the way from the distant Barangay Katalingan Sulok.

General Nakar's 19 villages have been without electricity for two weeks now.

Fuel from coconut oil is now also scarce because the rampaging waters from the mountains had swept away the supply, said Lourdes Pisco.

But yesterday, the family of the late Ambo Coronacion was top priority.

Coronacion, exposed to the elements since he lost his house in Minahan, died early yesterday—perhaps of pneumonia, said a relative of his who had come to fetch the fuel.

"We need some light for the wake," the man said.

'Alas puno'

Those still with the means to eke out a living are not to depend on relief goods.

Bla Astrera drives a tricycle, ferrying passengers to and from the poblacion (town proper) up to the breached portion of the

Agos Bridge.

But lately it takes hours to fill the seats because many residents can no longer afford the fare and are setting out on foot, she said, adding in the local slang:

"Alas puno dito (The time when a tricycle leaves is when every seat is occupied)."

At the far end of the bridge linking the towns of Infanta and General Nakar, the INQUIRER found farmer Venancio Bunan sitting on a muddy pile of rocks and fallen trees.

Since last week when the landslides claimed his farm, his house and his carabao, he had turned to stevedoring to earn a living.

"It will be long before we can resume farming," Bunan said.

Dozens of men worked under the bridge built through a loan to the government by the Asian Development Bank. Their chainsaws whirled, slicing the logs that had lodged under the bridge.

When the area is cleared, the government will send a crane to begin reconstructing the bridge, the workers said.

Virtual begging

Like the other residents, members of the Negrito tribe Dumagat have no option but to make do with relief supplies.

Rosario Aligado, pregnant with her eighth child, has been walking to and from Anoling to try and get a share of the goods. But most of the time, she has been going home empty-handed.

Still, she returns to try her luck.

"Paroo't parito lagi, nagbabakasakali," said Aligado, who was with seven other women who, like herself, had been on a daily routine of virtual begging.

The cost of food items in General Nakar have risen. Yesterday, bangus (milkfish) was going for P100 a kilo.

Sister Demate said the rehabilitation of the farms and fishing grounds should start soon.

The Prelature of Infanta, through Bishop Rolando Tirona, has its hands full soliciting relief goods from outside Quezon.

They who lost everything

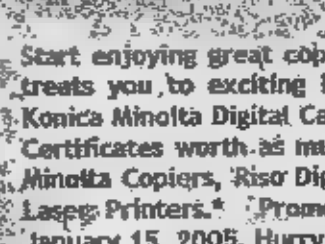
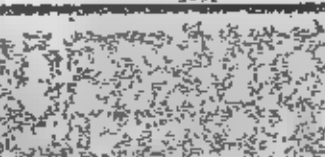
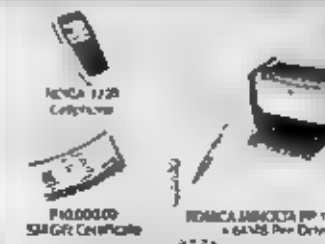
Social worker Rhodora Baja confirmed the scramble for relief goods. But this, she said, was understandable among people who had lost everything they had.

Holiday Treats from Copylandia!

MINOLTA DIGITAL COPIERS



Choose one (1) Free Gift



Start enjoying great copying and printing while Copylandia treats you to exciting FREE gifts this Christmas! Avail of Konica Minolta Digital Cameras, Nokia Cellphones or SIA Gift Certificates worth as much as P20,000 when you purchase Minolta Copiers, Riso Digital Duplicators and Konica Minolta Laser Printers.* Promo is from December 11, 2004 to January 15, 2005. Hurry!

*Excludes the following models: MINOLTA Copiers CR100, CR101, CR102, CR103, CR104, CR105, CR106, CR107, CR108, CR109, CR110, CR111, CR112, CR113, CR114, CR115, CR116, CR117, CR118, CR119, CR120, CR121, CR122, CR123, CR124, CR125, CR126, CR127, CR128, CR129, CR130, CR131, CR132, CR133, CR134, CR135, CR136, CR137, CR138, CR139, CR140, CR141, CR142, CR143, CR144, CR145, CR146, CR147, CR148, CR149, CR150, CR151, CR152, CR153, CR154, CR155, CR156, CR157, CR158, CR159, CR160, CR161, CR162, CR163, CR164, CR165, CR166, CR167, CR168, CR169, CR170, CR171, CR172, CR173, CR174, CR175, CR176, CR177, CR178, CR179, CR180, CR181, CR182, CR183, CR184, CR185, CR186, CR187, CR188, CR189, CR190, CR191, CR192, CR193, CR194, CR195, CR196, CR197, CR198, CR199, CR200, CR201, CR202, CR203, CR204, CR205, CR206, CR207, CR208, CR209, CR210, CR211, CR212, CR213, CR214, CR215, CR216, CR217, CR218, CR219, CR220, CR221, CR222, CR223, CR224, CR225, CR226, CR227, CR228, CR229, CR230, CR231, CR232, CR233, CR234, CR235, CR236, CR237, CR238, CR239, CR240, CR241, CR242, CR243, CR244, CR245, CR246, CR247, CR248, CR249, CR250, CR251, CR252, CR253, CR254, CR255, CR256, CR257, CR258, CR259, CR260, CR261, CR262, CR263, CR264, CR265, CR266, CR267, CR268, CR269, CR270, CR271, CR272, CR273, CR274, CR275, CR276, CR277, CR278, CR279, CR280, CR281, CR282, CR283, CR284, CR285, CR286, CR287, CR288, CR289, CR290, CR291, CR292, CR293, CR294, CR295, CR296, CR297, CR298, CR299, CR300, CR301, CR302, CR303, CR304, CR305, CR306, CR307, CR308, CR309, CR310, CR311, CR312, CR313, CR314, CR315, CR316, CR317, CR318, CR319, CR320, CR321, CR322, CR323, CR324, CR325, CR326, CR327, CR328, CR329, CR330, CR331, CR332, CR333, CR334, CR335, CR336, CR337, CR338, CR339, CR340, CR341, CR342, CR343, CR344, CR345, CR346, CR347, CR348, CR349, CR350, CR351, CR352, CR353, CR354, CR355, CR356, CR357, CR358, CR359, CR360, CR361, CR362, CR363, CR364, CR365, CR366, CR367, CR368, CR369, CR370, CR371, CR372, CR373, CR374, CR375, CR376, CR377, CR378, CR379, CR380, CR381, CR382, CR383, CR384, CR385, CR386, CR387, CR388, CR389, CR390, CR391, CR392, CR393, CR394, CR395, CR396, CR397, CR398, CR399, CR400, CR401, CR402, CR403, CR404, CR405, CR406, CR407, CR408, CR409, CR410, CR411, CR412, CR413, CR414, CR415, CR416, CR417, CR418, CR419, CR420, CR421, CR422, CR423, CR424, CR425, CR426, CR427, CR428, CR429, CR430, CR431, CR432, CR433, CR434, CR435, CR436, CR437, CR438, CR439, CR440, CR441, CR442, CR443, CR444, CR445, CR446, CR447, CR448, CR449, CR450, CR451, CR452, CR453, CR454, CR455, CR456, CR457, CR458, CR459, CR460, CR461, CR462, CR463, CR464, CR465, CR466, CR467, CR468, CR469, CR470, CR471, CR472, CR473, CR474, CR475, CR476, CR477, CR478, CR479, CR480, CR481, CR482, CR483, CR484, CR485, CR486, CR487, CR488, CR489, CR490, CR491, CR492, CR493, CR494, CR495, CR496, CR497, CR498, CR499, CR500, CR501, CR502, CR503, CR504, CR505, CR506, CR507, CR508, CR509, CR510, CR511, CR512, CR513, CR514, CR515, CR516, CR517, CR518, CR519, CR520, CR521, CR522, CR523, CR524, CR525, CR526, CR527, CR528, CR529, CR530, CR531, CR532, CR533, CR534, CR535, CR536, CR537, CR538, CR539, CR540, CR541, CR542, CR543, CR544, CR545, CR546, CR547, CR548, CR549, CR550, CR551, CR552, CR553, CR554, CR555, CR556, CR557, CR558, CR559, CR560, CR561, CR562, CR563, CR564, CR565, CR566, CR567, CR568, CR569, CR570, CR571, CR572, CR573, CR574, CR575, CR576, CR577, CR578, CR579, CR580, CR581, CR582, CR583, CR584, CR585, CR586, CR587, CR588, CR589, CR590, CR591, CR592, CR593, CR594, CR595, CR596, CR597, CR598, CR599, CR600, CR601, CR602, CR603, CR604, CR605, CR606, CR607, CR608, CR609, CR610, CR611, CR612, CR613, CR614, CR615, CR616, CR617, CR618, CR619, CR620, CR621, CR622, CR623, CR624, CR625, CR626, CR627, CR628, CR629, CR630, CR631, CR632, CR633, CR634, CR635, CR636, CR637, CR638, CR639, CR640, CR641, CR642, CR643, CR644, CR645, CR646, CR647, CR648, CR649, CR650, CR651, CR652, CR653, CR654, CR655, CR656, CR657, CR658, CR659, CR660, CR661, CR662, CR663, CR664, CR665, CR666, CR667, CR668, CR669, CR670, CR671, CR672, CR673, CR674, CR675, CR676, CR677, CR678, CR679, CR680, CR681, CR682, CR683, CR684, CR685, CR686, CR687, CR688, CR689, CR690, CR691, CR692, CR693, CR694, CR695, CR696, CR697, CR698, CR699, CR700, CR701, CR702, CR703, CR704, CR705, CR706, CR707, CR708, CR709, CR710, CR711, CR712, CR713, CR714, CR715, CR716, CR717, CR718, CR719, CR720, CR721, CR722, CR723, CR724, CR725, CR726, CR727, CR728, CR729, CR730, CR731, CR732, CR733, CR734, CR735, CR736, CR737, CR738, CR739, CR740, CR741, CR742, CR743, CR744, CR745, CR746, CR747, CR748, CR749, CR750, CR751, CR752, CR753, CR754, CR755, CR756, CR757, CR758, CR759, CR760, CR761, CR762, CR763, CR764, CR765, CR766, CR767, CR768, CR769, CR770, CR771, CR772, CR773, CR774, CR775, CR776, CR777, CR778, CR779, CR780, CR781, CR782, CR783, CR784, CR785, CR786, CR787, CR788, CR789, CR790, CR791, CR792, CR793, CR794, CR795, CR796, CR797, CR798, CR799, CR800, CR801, CR802, CR803, CR804, CR805, CR806, CR807, CR808, CR809, CR810, CR811, CR812, CR813, CR814, CR815, CR816, CR817, CR818, CR819, CR820, CR821, CR822, CR823, CR824, CR825, CR826, CR827, CR828, CR829, CR830, CR831, CR832, CR833, CR834, CR835, CR836, CR837, CR838, CR839, CR840, CR841, CR842, CR843, CR844, CR845, CR846, CR847, CR848, CR849, CR850, CR851, CR852, CR853, CR854, CR855, CR856, CR857, CR858, CR859, CR860, CR861, CR862, CR863, CR864, CR865, CR866, CR867, CR868, CR869, CR870, CR871, CR872, CR873, CR874, CR875, CR876, CR877, CR878, CR879, CR880, CR881, CR882, CR883, CR884, CR885, CR886, CR887, CR888, CR889, CR890, CR891, CR892, CR893, CR894, CR895, CR896, CR897, CR898, CR899, CR900, CR901, CR902, CR903, CR904, CR905, CR906, CR907, CR908, CR909, CR910, CR911, CR912, CR913, CR914, CR915, CR916, CR917, CR918, CR919, CR920, CR921, CR922, CR923, CR924, CR925, CR926, CR927, CR928, CR929, CR930, CR931, CR932, CR933, CR934, CR935, CR936, CR937, CR938, CR939, CR940, CR941, CR942, CR943, CR944, CR945, CR946, CR947, CR948, CR949, CR950, CR951, CR952, CR953, CR954, CR955, CR956, CR957, CR958, CR959, CR960, CR961, CR962, CR963, CR964, CR965, CR966, CR967, CR968, CR969, CR970, CR971, CR972, CR973, CR974, CR975, CR976, CR977, CR978, CR979, CR980, CR981, CR982, CR983, CR984, CR985, CR986, CR987, CR988, CR989, CR990, CR991, CR992, CR993, CR994, CR995, CR996, CR997, CR998, CR999, CR1000, CR1001, CR1002, CR1003, CR1004, CR1005, CR1006, CR1007, CR1008, CR1009, CR1010, CR1011, CR1012, CR1013, CR1014, CR1015, CR1016, CR1017, CR1018, CR1019, CR1020, CR1021, CR1022, CR1023, CR1024, CR1025, CR1026, CR1027, CR1028, CR1029, CR1030, CR1031, CR1032, CR1033, CR1034, CR1035, CR1036, CR1037, CR1038, CR1039, CR1040, CR1041, CR1042, CR1043, CR1044, CR1045, CR1046, CR1047, CR1048, CR1049, CR1050, CR1051, CR1052, CR1053, CR1054, CR1055, CR1056, CR1057, CR1058, CR1059, CR1060, CR1061, CR1062, CR1063, CR1064, CR1065, CR1066, CR1067, CR1068, CR1069, CR1070, CR1071, CR1072, CR1073, CR1074, CR1075, CR1076, CR1077, CR1078, CR1079, CR1080, CR1081, CR1082, CR1083, CR1084, CR1085, CR1086, CR1087, CR1088, CR1089, CR1090, CR1091, CR1092, CR1093, CR1094, CR1095, CR1096, CR1097, CR1098, CR1099, CR1100, CR1101, CR1102, CR1103, CR1104, CR1105, CR1106, CR1107, CR1108, CR1109, CR1110, CR1111, CR1112, CR1113, CR1114, CR1115, CR1116, CR1117, CR1118, CR1119, CR1120, CR1121, CR1122, CR1123, CR1124, CR1125, CR1126, CR1127, CR1128, CR1129, CR1130, CR1131, CR1132, CR1133, CR1134, CR1135, CR1136, CR1137, CR1138, CR1139, CR1140, CR1141, CR1142, CR1143, CR1144, CR1145, CR1146, CR1147, CR1148, CR1149, CR1150, CR1151, CR1152, CR1153, CR1154, CR1155, CR1156, CR1157, CR1158, CR1159, CR1160, CR1161, CR1162, CR1163, CR1164, CR1165, CR1166, CR1167, CR1168, CR1169, CR1170, CR1171, CR1172, CR1173, CR1174, CR1175, CR1176, CR1177, CR1178, CR1179, CR1180, CR1181, CR1182, CR1183, CR1184, CR1185, CR1186, CR1187, CR1188, CR1189, CR1190, CR1191, CR1192, CR1193, CR1194, CR1195, CR1196, CR1197, CR1198, CR1199, CR1200, CR1201, CR1202, CR1203, CR1204, CR1205, CR1206, CR1207, CR1208, CR1209, CR1210, CR1211, CR1212, CR1213, CR1214, CR1215, CR1216, CR1217, CR1218, CR1219, CR1220, CR1221, CR1222, CR1223, CR1224, CR1225, CR1226, CR1227, CR1228, CR1229, CR1230, CR1231, CR1232, CR1233, CR1234, CR1235, CR1236, CR1237, CR1238, CR1239, CR1240, CR1241, CR1242, CR1243, CR1244, CR1245, CR1246, CR1247, CR1248, CR1249, CR1250, CR1251, CR1252, CR1253, CR1254, CR1255, CR1256, CR1257, CR1258, CR1259, CR1260, CR1261, CR1262, CR1263, CR1264, CR1265, CR1266, CR1267, CR1268, CR1269, CR1270, CR1271, CR1272, CR1273, CR1274, CR1275, CR1276, CR1277, CR1278, CR1279, CR1280, CR1281, CR1282, CR1283, CR1284, CR1285, CR1286, CR1287, CR1288, CR1289, CR1290, CR1291, CR1292, CR1293, CR1294, CR1295, CR1296, CR1297, CR1298, CR1299, CR1300, CR1301, CR1302, CR1303, CR1304, CR1305, CR1306, CR1307, CR1308, CR1309, CR1310, CR1311, CR1312, CR1313, CR1314, CR1315, CR1316, CR1317, CR1318, CR1319, CR1320, CR1321, CR1322, CR1323, CR1324, CR1325, CR1326, CR1327, CR1328, CR1329, CR1330, CR1331, CR1332, CR1333, CR1334, CR1335, CR1336, CR1337, CR1338, CR1339, CR1340, CR1341, CR1342, CR1343, CR1344, CR1345, CR1346, CR1347, CR1348, CR1349, CR1350, CR1351, CR1352, CR1353, CR1354, CR1355, CR1356, CR1357, CR1358, CR1359, CR1360, CR1361, CR1362, CR1363, CR1364, CR1365, CR1366, CR1367, CR1368, CR1369, CR1370, CR1371, CR1372, CR1373, CR1374, CR1375, CR1376, CR1377, CR1378, CR1379, CR1380, CR1381, CR1382, CR1383, CR1384, CR1385, CR1386, CR1387, CR1388, CR1389, CR1390, CR1391, CR1392, CR1393, CR1394, CR1395, CR1396, CR1397, CR1398, CR1399, CR1400, CR1401, CR1402, CR1403, CR1404, CR1405, CR1406, CR1407, CR1408, CR1409, CR1410, CR1411, CR1412, CR1413, CR1414, CR1415, CR1416, CR1417, CR1418, CR1419, CR1420, CR1421, CR1422, CR1423, CR1424, CR1425, CR1426, CR1427, CR1428, CR1429, CR1430, CR1431, CR1432, CR1433, CR1434, CR1435, CR1436, CR1437, CR1438, CR1439, CR1440, CR1441, CR1442, CR1443, CR1444, CR1445, CR1446, CR1447, CR1448, CR1449, CR1450, CR1451, CR1452, CR1453, CR1454, CR1455, CR1456, CR1457, CR1458, CR1459, CR1460, CR1461, CR1462, CR1463, CR1464, CR1465, CR1466, CR1467, CR1468, CR1469, CR1470, CR1471, CR1472, CR1473, CR1474, CR1475, CR1476, CR1477, CR1478, CR1479, CR1480, CR1481, CR1482, CR1483, CR1484, CR1485, CR1486, CR1487, CR1488, CR1489, CR1490, CR1491, CR1492, CR1493, CR1494, CR1495, CR1496, CR1497, CR1498, CR1499, CR1500, CR1501, CR1502, CR1503, CR1504, CR1505, CR1506, CR1507, CR1508, CR1509, CR1510, CR1511, CR1512, CR1513, CR1514, CR1515, CR1516, CR1517, CR1518, CR1519, CR1520, CR1521, CR1522, CR1523, CR1524, CR1525, CR1526, CR1527, CR1528, CR1529, CR1530, CR1531, CR1532, CR1533, CR1534, CR1535, CR1536, CR1537, CR1538, CR1539, CR1540, CR1541, CR1542, CR1543, CR1544, CR1545, CR1546, CR1547, CR1548, CR1549, CR1550, CR1551, CR1552, CR1553, CR1554, CR1555, CR1556, CR1557, CR1558, CR1559, CR1560, CR1561, CR1562, CR1563, CR1564, CR1565, CR1566, CR1567, CR1568, CR1569, CR1570, CR1571, CR1572, CR1573, CR1574, CR1575, CR1576, CR1577, CR1578, CR1579, CR1580, CR1581, CR1582, CR1583, CR1584, CR1585, CR1586, CR1587, CR1588, CR1589, CR1590, CR1591, CR1592, CR1593, CR1594, CR1595, CR1596, CR1597, CR1598, CR1599, CR1600, CR1601, CR1602, CR1603, CR1604, CR1605, CR1606, CR1607, CR1608, CR1609, CR1610, CR1611, CR1612, CR1613, CR1614, CR1615, CR1616, CR1617, CR1618, CR1619, CR1620, CR1621, CR1622, CR1623, CR1624, CR1625, CR1626, CR1627, CR1628, CR1629, CR1630, CR1631, CR1632, CR1633, CR1634, CR1635, CR1636, CR1637, CR1638, CR1639, CR1640, CR1641, CR1642, CR1643, CR1644, CR1645, CR1646, CR1647, CR1648, CR1649, CR1650, CR1651, CR1652, CR1653, CR1654, CR1655, CR1656, CR1657, CR1658, CR1659, CR1660, CR1661, CR1662, CR1663, CR1664, CR1665, CR1666, CR1667, CR1668, CR1669, CR1670, CR1671, CR1672, CR1673, CR1674, CR1675, CR1676, CR1677, CR1678, CR1679, CR1680, CR1681, CR1682, CR1683, CR1684, CR1685, CR1686, CR1687, CR1688, CR1689, CR1690, CR1691, CR1692, CR1693, CR1694, CR1695, CR1696, CR1697, CR1698, CR1699, CR1700, CR1701, CR1702, CR1703, CR1704, CR1705, CR1706, CR1707, CR1708, CR1709, CR1710, CR1711, CR1712, CR1713, CR1714, CR1715, CR1716, CR1717, CR1718, CR1719, CR1720, CR1721, CR1722, CR1723, CR1724, CR1725, CR1726, CR1727, CR1728, CR1729, CR1730, CR1731, CR1732, CR1733, CR1734, CR1735, CR1736, CR1737, CR1738, CR1739, CR1740, CR1741, CR1742, CR1743, CR1744, CR1745, CR1746, CR1747, CR1748, CR1749, CR1750, CR1751, CR1752, CR1753, CR1754, CR1755, CR1756, CR1757, CR1758, CR1759, CR1760, CR1761, CR1762, CR1763, CR1764, CR1765, CR1766, CR1767, CR1768, CR1769, CR1770, CR1771, CR1772, CR1773, CR1774, CR1775, CR1776, CR1777, CR1778, CR1779, CR1780, CR1781, CR1782, CR1783, CR1784, CR1785, CR1786, CR1787, CR1788, CR1789, CR1790, CR1791, CR1792, CR1793, CR1794, CR1795, CR1796, CR1797, CR1798, CR1799, CR1800, CR1801, CR1802, CR1803, CR1804, CR1805, CR1806, CR1807, CR1808, CR1809, CR1810, CR1811, CR1812, CR1813, CR1814, CR1815, CR1816, CR1817, CR1818, CR1819, CR1820, CR1821, CR1822, CR1823, CR1824, CR1825, CR1826, CR1827, CR1828, CR1829, CR1830, CR1831, CR18

The WORLD

Editor Luyerne B. Guico

PLO chief seeks end to armed uprising

RAMALLAH, West Bank—New PLO chair Mahmoud Abbas called for an end to the armed uprising, as Israeli tanks Tuesday rolled into Gaza in the aftermath of the most lethal Palestinian attack since Yasser Arafat's death.

On the day that a Palestinian policeman and Thai woman were killed in violence in the Gaza Strip, Abbas said opposition to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories should be limited to non-lethal means.

"The use of weapons is harmful and it should stop," Abbas, the overwhelming favorite in January's Palestinian presidential

election, told London-based Arab newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat.

He also emphasized "the necessity of keeping the intifada clear of weapons because the intifada is the legitimate right of the people to express their rejection of the occupation by popular and social means."

Despite his opposition to the militarization of the struggle

against Israeli occupation, it was his strongest criticism of the armed factions since succeeding Arafat at the helm of the PLO after the veteran leader died on Nov. 11.

His comments were published the day after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon blasted the new look Palestinian leadership and the security services for doing nothing to rein in armed factions.

Angered by the deaths of five Israeli soldiers on Sunday after militants blew up a tunnel near the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, Sharon said he

saw "no change" from the Palestinian Authority.

In the largest Israeli operation in the Gaza Strip since Arafat's death, tanks and bulldozers staged an early morning incursion in Khan Yunis.

Witnesses and residents said around 15 houses had been destroyed in the southern town's refugee camp, while an army spokesman said a military unit "had destroyed houses where Palestinians were firing mortars or other arms."

According to the spokesman, 300 mortar shells have been

fired in the area since November, targeting Jewish settlements or military posts.

A Thai woman working at a nearby Jewish settlement was killed later Tuesday in a Palestinian mortar strike, Israeli medics said.

A Palestinian policeman was also killed and two of his colleagues were seriously wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire near the disused Gaza airport, Palestinian medical sources said.

In another attack, an Israeli soldier was wounded by shrapnel from a rocket fired from Gaza by

the Islamic radical group Hamas, military sources said.

Abbas has been working behind the scenes to persuade militant groups such as Hamas, responsible for the majority of anti-Israeli attacks since the September 2000 start of the Palestinian uprising, to call a halt to their campaign.

"We hope to reach positive conclusions in the next few weeks," he said.

But Hamas' overall leader Khaled Meshal told the BBC that the organization has no plans to call a ceasefire. **AFP**

Top Saddam aides to face trial next week

BAGHDAD—Saddam Hussein's top henchmen will start going on trial for crimes against humanity next week, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said as he warned violence would increase after Iraq's landmark elections in January.

"The trial will begin next week of the symbols of the former regime who will appear in succession to ensure that justice is done in Iraq," Allawi said Tuesday.

Saddam, seized by US forces along with 11 of his top Baathist lieutenants, is being held at Camp Cropper, a vast US base near Baghdad's international airport, Human Rights Minister Bakhtiar Amin confirmed.

All 12 appeared in court in July for the first time since their capture to hear preliminary charges revealed against them.

In Amman, Saddam's defense team immediately disputed the planned trials, which Amin said would start by end-March rather than next week.

"The interrogation (of detainees) in the absence of their lawyers is invalid and the accusations made against them are also invalid according to legal rules," said the spokesman for the Jordan-based team, Ziad Khassawneh.

Government officials had said Saddam, who could face the death penalty, would go on trial after the

Jan. 30 elections, billed as the first free Iraqi vote in half a century.

His capture on Dec. 13, 2003, has done nothing to stop the deadly insurgency in which thousands of people have been killed.

As a deadly car bomb exploded Tuesday near the Green Zone in Baghdad, visiting US military chief Gen. Richard Myers insisted the elections would not be derailed by attacks, despite acknowledging a probable spike in violence.

"We said all along that violence will increase as we move towards the elections... They (insurgents) will stop at nothing to try to keep Iraq from becoming a free country," Myers said.

Looking beyond the vote, Polish Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said Warsaw plans to cut the size of its force in Iraq from 2,500 troops to 1,700 in mid-February.

But Allawi said unrest was only likely to increase after the polls.

"Terrorist strikes and attacks will not stop after the elections. On the contrary they will increase because this is a fight between good and evil," he told parliament.

Allawi, however, announced that the insurgency had been dealt a blow by the killing of an aide to Iraq's most wanted man, Jordanian Islamist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, blamed for a string of deadly attacks and the killing of hostages. **AFP**

Continental Airlines partly blamed for Concorde crash

PARIS—A French legal inquiry into the July 2000 Concorde crash outside Paris that killed 113 people presented its findings Tuesday that put part of the blame on Continental Airlines—exposing the US company to a criminal lawsuit and multimillion-euro compensation claims.

The report by judge Christophe Regnaud concluded, after four years of questioning experts and witnesses, that the causes of the crash were two-fold: a structural fault in the Concorde's design, and a titanium metal strip left lying on the runway from a preceding Continental plane.

The metal strip played a "direct" role in the accident, which killed all 109 people on board the New York-bound Concorde and four people on the ground, the report said.

But it also said the Concorde suffered a "relative weakness" on the interior surface of its distinctive delta-shaped wings which held the fuel tanks.

When the Air France Concorde, speeding down the runway at Charles de Gaulle airport on July 25, 2000, hit the titanium strip, shredding one of its tires, chunks of rubber were sent through a wing fuel tank.

With the tank ablaze and engine power failing, the supersonic plane plummeted into a hotel near the airport in a fireball.

The spectacular disaster ultimately contributed to the aviation icon being pulled from the skies last year.

Continental Airlines categorically denied any responsibility for the crash and said it would fight any criminal charges flowing from a French probe of the accident.

"We strongly disagree that anything Continental did was the cause of the Concorde accident and we are

outraged that media reports have said criminal charges may be made against our company and its employees," said Continental spokesman Rakesha Johnson in a statement.

"We are confident that there is no basis for a criminal action and we will defend any charges in the appropriate courts."

Regnaud's report said the problem with the weakness of the Concorde's wings was discovered during its years of service but "were not sufficiently noted by relevant parties" such as its maker, Aerospatiale, and France's air safety office, the BEA. **AFP**



FATAL COLLISION

Indian Army soldiers assist in removing a body from a damaged car of a passenger train in village Khanpur, in India's northern Punjab province, about 300 km northwest of New Delhi Tuesday. An express train crashed head-on into a local train Tuesday in northern India, slamming into one another along a stretch of rural track, officials said. At least 31 people were killed. **AP**

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine's PM denies calling for force

KIEV—Ukraine's pro-Russian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich scrambled to save his faltering reputation Tuesday by denying that he supported the use of force against pro-Western opposition demonstrators now poised to carry their leader to power. "This information is false. We were not talking about using force but only about establishing order," Yanukovich said of events that followed a contested November 21 poll that was annulled days after he was declared winner. But he also accused the colorful orange-clad demonstrators of staging an illegal coup d'etat. Britain's Financial Times quoted Ukrainian administration and other sources as saying that Yanukovich lobbied outgoing President Leonid Kuchma to send in the crack forces after demonstrators angry over widespread voting fraud blockaded his and other offices. **AFP**

Gunmen hijack Greek bus

ATHENS—Two foreign gunmen hijacked a Greek bus carrying 26 passengers on Wednesday and demanded to go to Athens airport to leave the country. The gunmen freed five hostages, two men and three women. The first hostage released, about five hours after the bus was seized, was a middle-aged man whose son said his father had heart problems. The bus was seized about 8 a.m. along a highway from the Athens suburb of Marathon, used during the Olympic race of the same name this summer, police said. Confusion surrounded the identities and aims of the gunmen carrying out the hijack, the first such incident since a spate of bus hijackings in Greece in 1999-2000. Police said shots were fired on the bus after it was seized in the middle of early morning commuter traffic. **Reuters**

Taliban security chief nabbed

KANDAHAR—Afghan security forces have captured Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar's personal security chief as he travelled in a van to the southern city of Kandahar, provincial officials told Reuters on Tuesday. The capture of Tahir Mullah Naqibullah Khan, who headed Mullah Omar's household security, could help US and Afghan forces track down his boss, one of the most wanted fugitives in the US-led war on terror. "We have arrested top Taliban figures Tahir Mullah Naqibullah Khan and Mullah Dayoom Angar on the way between Arghandab and Kandahar. They were carrying a satellite telephone and some important documents," said a senior Kandahar security official, who requested anonymity. **Reuters**

Cuba steps up war games

HAVANA—Cuba pressed on Tuesday with its biggest military exercises in decades, with 400,000 reservists joining regular forces and millions of civilians in wargames which the authorities say are aimed at deterring a US invasion. The second day of the "Bastion 2004" exercises went ahead as the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said Cuba has increased defence spending for the first time in many years in "a reflection of growing tensions between Washington and Havana." Cuban regular troops are also taking part in the exercises, heavily covered by the communist nation's official media. Trucks towing armored cars and officers armed for battle were mobilized on the streets of Havana. Massive underground shelters where planes, tanks and heavy artillery are housed were opened to combat troops. **AFP**

Australia warns of attack on Hilton

SYDNEY—The Australian government warned Wednesday that it had received specific intelligence suggesting an imminent terrorist attack in Indonesia, possibly targeting a Hilton hotel. However, the Indonesian authorities played down the statement by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, insisting there was no intelligence to back up the warning. "We have received credible new information suggesting terrorists are ready to carry out an attack shortly in Indonesia, possibly targeting a Hilton hotel," the Australian statement said. The Hilton Hotel group's Indonesian hotels are Jakarta, the resort island of Bali and the eastern city of Surabaya. **AFP**

Asian pupils dominate math, science—study

WASHINGTON — Singapore students were the top performers in both mathematics and science in a worldwide survey of more than 360,000 fourth and eighth graders, Boston College said in a report published on Tuesday.

The quadrennial Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, or TIMSS, for 2003 also found students from South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong performed very well in math and science, repeating results found in 1995 and 1998.

In mathematics, in both the eighth and fourth grades, Singapore had a significantly higher average achievement rating than the rest of the participating countries. Asian countries or regions took six of the top 10 slots for eighth-grade math.

Singapore's eighth-grade students had an average score of

605 out of 800 points, with the international average of 46 countries at 467. In the same category, Japan's score was 570, Russia's was 508 and the United States scored 504 for 15th place, the report said. Eighth-grade students are usually about age 13.

For fourth grade, for which students of 25 countries or territories were measured, Singapore's students led the ranking with an average score of 594 against a worldwide 495, followed by Hong Kong with 575.

Japan was third with 565, Russia was ninth with 532 and the United States 12th with 518. Fourth-graders are generally about age 9.

In science, Singapore dominated both age groups, followed by Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong, the survey showed. **Reuters**

Google, others to put more books on the Web

WASHINGTON—Google Inc. wants to save you a trip to the library. The search engine that revolutionized how people use the Internet has teamed up with some of the world's greatest libraries to put their books in your living room.

At the same time, the nonprofit Internet Archive said libraries from five countries, including China and India, have agreed to add one million digitized books to its archive, with some 70,000 expected to be online by next April.

"There will be a reshaping of how book access is done through both the commercial and library systems," said Internet Archives founder Brewster Kahle. "Isn't it fantastic? Having this much access is just fantastic for everybody."

Google said on Monday it plans to scan millions of books from Ox-

ford University, Harvard University, Stanford University, the University of Michigan and the New York Public Library to make them available through its search engine.

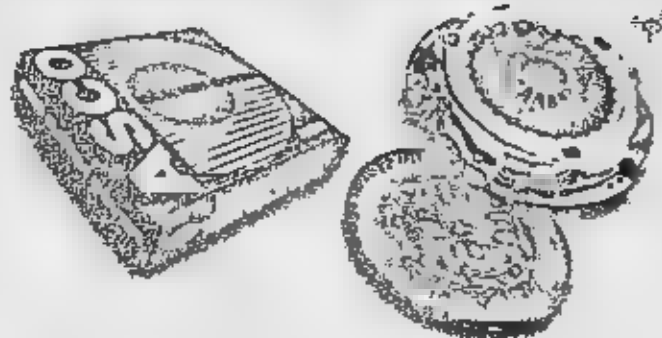
"We believe that having more information in our index leads to a better search experience, and we always want to make sure that users find the information they're looking for," said Susan Wojcicki, director of project management at Google.

Wojcicki declined to say how much the project would cost and how long it would take.

Nonprofit archiving efforts like Project Gutenberg and the Internet Archive have been placing public-domain materials online for years. Yahoo Inc., Microsoft Corp., and other commercial search engines have joined the effort. **Reuters**

VILLAGE tenthaus
 *AWNINGS *CANOPIES *CAR TENTS *GARDEN PARTY TENTS
 *WAREHOUSE TENTS *CAMPING TENTS *SLEEPING BAGS
 *PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT *TENT & STAGE RENTAL
 TELEFAX : 872-2332
 CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES
 LAS PIÑAS CITY | QUEZON CITY | MAKATI CITY
 872-3788 922-0432 895-5484

NOTICE AND WARNING



"ASCO" and "AISIN" are the registered trademarks for CLUTCHES produced by AISIN SEIKI CO., LTD., of Aichi, Japan under Trademark Registration No. 19835 dated July 23, 1971 and No. 51259 dated August 21, 1991, with the Intellectual Property Office.

The said "ASCO" and "AISIN" registered trademarks are used for ASCO CLUTCHES, respectively, which are being sold and distributed in the Philippines.

Recently, imitation "ASCO" CLUTCHES have appeared in the market, which are illegally manufactured, distributed and sold by unscrupulous persons and establishments without the permission and consent from AISIN SEIKI CO., LTD.

These unauthorized acts constitute trademark infringement and unfair competition under the Intellectual Property Code (R.A. 8293). Violators will be held civilly and criminally liable to the fullest extent of the law.

Warning is hereby given to these unauthorized persons and establishments to cease and desist from manufacturing, importing, distributing and selling the aforementioned ASCO CLUTCHES.

AISIN SEIKI CO., LTD. disclaims any responsibility for any damage and injury resulting from the use of ASCO CLUTCHES bought from unauthorized sources.

THE LAW FIRM OF
CONTACTO NEVILLAS
 AND ASSOCIATES
 Counsel for AISIN SEIKI CO. LTD.
 11th Floor, 2000 Tower,
 973 Teller Avenue, Manila
 Tel Nos. (832) 4040-852 to 854
 Website: <http://www.contacto.com>
 E-mail: info@contacto.com

ASCO
AISIN
 AISIN SEIKI CO., LTD.

More abuses by US Marines in Iraq bared

WASHINGTON—US Marines fired a pistol in a mock execution involving four young Iraqi detainees and shocked another Iraqi detainee with an electric transformer until he "danced," a document made public on Tuesday showed.

The June 16 US Navy document detailed 10 "substantiated" incidents of detainee abuse in Iraq involving 24 Marines dating back to May 2003. The Marine Corps said 13 Marines were convicted in courts-martial stemming from the incidents, getting prison sentences of up to 15 months.

The document was written seven weeks after pictures of US Army soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib jail became public, triggering worldwide condemnation.

It was one of numerous Navy documents released by the American Civil Liberties Union, which obtained them under the Freedom of Information Act. In a June 14 e-mail, a Navy criminal investigator wrote that his Iraq "caseload is exploding, high visibility cases are on the rise."

"The defense department has insisted from the outset that abuse, to the extent that it occurs at all, is aberrational," said Jameel Jaffer, an ACLU lawyer. "I think we now have overwhelming evidence that that's not true, but that abuse was widespread and that it was systemic in the sense that it was the result of policies adopted by the defense department."

Air Force Lt. Col. John Skinner, a Pentagon spokesperson, said, "We've never denied that misconduct sometimes occurs. But in all instances, we thoroughly investigate cases to determine the facts and hold responsible individuals accountable."

The June 16 document listed a series of previously unknown incidents of detainee abuse by Marines, as well as 10 cases that Navy investigators, who handle cases involving Marines, examined as possible abuse but deemed "unsubstantiated."

It described an April 2004 incident at Al Mahmudiyah in which Marines shocked an Iraqi detainee with an electric transformer,

placing live electrical wires on the detainee's shoulder, noting that "the detainee 'danced' as he was shocked."

The Marine Corps said four Marines were convicted of charges including assault, cruelty, maltreatment, and making a false official statement, with prison sentences ranging from 60 days to 15 months. A fifth Marine was given administrative punishment.

The document described incidents in June and July 2003 in Adiwaniyah. It stated that Marines "ordered 4 juvenile Iraqi looters to kneel beside 2 shallow fighting holes & a pistol was discharged to conduct a mock execution." It did not give the age of the Iraqis. Marines in the case also were accused of locking looters in an abandoned tank and spraying looters with a fire extinguisher.

Three Marines in the incident were convicted on charges including detainee abuse and dereliction of duty, with two being sentenced to 30 days hard labor, and the third getting 14 days of restricted movement, and all being reduced in rank. Charges were withdrawn against a fourth Marine.

In August 2003, a detainee suffered second-degree burns on the back of his hands when a Marine guard at a base at Al Mumudiyah used a match to ignite an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that had been squirted on the man's hands, the document stated.

Reuters

Spain nabs 5 suspected militants

MADRID — Spanish police have arrested five men suspected of links to Islamic militant cells that planned to bomb the High Court and Real Madrid's Bernabeu soccer stadium, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

They are the latest of more than 100 suspected Islamic militants to be arrested in Spain since the March 11 train bombings in Madrid, though many have been released for lack of evidence.

Two suspects were picked up in the Basque administrative capital of Vitoria, two in Madrid and one in the Aragon region in northeast Spain.

"These men were part of a group of people who were forming a cell of radical activists, potentially dangerous to the security of the state," Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso told reporters.

"One of them has links with the March 11 attacks," Alonso said, referring to the train bombs that killed 191 people and wounded 1,900.

The ministry said the men were three Algerians, a Moroccan and a Spaniard of Moroccan origin identified as 27-year-old Khalid Zelm Pardo.

Pardo was suspected of links with Moroccan Amer Azizi, who the ministry said was wanted for his roles in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and in the Madrid train bombings.

The ministry said the Algerians were connected to a Saafist cell dismantled last year in Spain, which in turn had supported a France-based cell's failed plot to attack the Russian Embassy in Paris with a car bomb.

They were identified as Abdelkader Lebik, 31, Abdallah Ibn Moutalib Kadouri, 30, and Ibrahim Amman, 38. Reuters

The Colors of Flying

PROMO PACKAGES		
CANTON + HONGKONG (3D/2N)	128	
SHENZHEN + GUANGZHOU (3D/2N)	145	
SHENZHEN + HONGKONG (3D/2N)	155	
HONGKONG + SHENZHEN (3D/2N)	135	
MACAU + SHENZHEN (4D/3N)	198	
BANGKOK (3D/2N)	145	
BANGKOK + PATTAYA (4D/3N)	188	
SINGAPORE (3D/2N)	273	
SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA (4D/3N)	379	
SINGAPORE + KUALA LUMPUR (5D/4N)	280	
KUALA LUMPUR (3D/2N)	360	
BAL (3D/2N)	280	
SAIGON (3D/2N)	445	
SEOUL (3D/2N)	330	
GUAM (3D/2N)	590	
WEST COAST TOUR (5D/4N)		
LOCAL PACKAGES		
CEBU	P 5,265	BORACAY P 5,425
BAKOLOD	P 5,675	LADAG P 5,425
BOHOL	P 5,095	

*All Local Packages are 4N 3D and 3D/2N

FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS YOU MAY CALL OR VISIT US AT

COLORS TRAVEL & TOURS

TRM 511 PACIFIC BLDG. QUINCY PARADES ST. BANGKOK, MALAYSIA

TELS 241-8175 TELEFAX 242-0798

EMAIL: colors@travel.com

EMBARRASSED BY BAD BREATH?

It's embarrassing to struggle in real life with "Therabreath System" a US product effectively eliminates bad breath, bitter sour taste, phlegm in throat, post nasal drip, awful morning breath. Bad breath is caused by sulfur & throat not in stomach or sinus. That's why mouthwashes and sprays don't really work. Therabreath System detects the source of bacteria and monitors bad breath carbon. Free delivery with Metro Manila. Money back guarantee. Tel: 890-5386, 895-5572, 897-2466. Call 891-795385 (0915-5186455)

YOUR FOOL-PROOF TIME RECORD SYSTEM HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!

David-Link BioClock

Advantages:

- Finger-driven technology in 1 sec. ID time or less
- Works well with dry, moist or even rough fingertips
- Stand alone capability even without a PC
- 30,000-record storage (downloadable)
- 4,000-user capacity

We also offer Time Recorders, Check Writers, Billing Machines, Laminators, Money Counters, Duplicators & other office equipment.

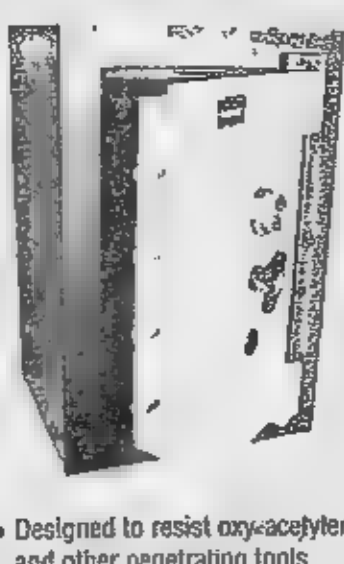
Tel. nos. 898-3431 / 898-3432 / 898-5310 / 898-5320 / 898-5327 / 898-7764

website: www.david-link.com, e-mail us at: inquire_dlink@yahoo.com

PROtech

TALL & THIN
FIRE RESISTING
OFFICE SAFE

LORD BURGLAR
& FIRE RESISTING
SAFE



- Saves floor space
- Protects documents
- One keylock and one combination lock

- Designed to resist oxy-acetylene and other penetrating tools
- Relocking device deterrent to burglary
- One keylock and one combination lock

DON'T CHANCE IT. PROTECH IT.

PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY, INC.

Physical Security Equipment

www.protech.com.ph

HEAD OFFICE:
2643-4 Tull Ave. Pasay City, MNL
Tel. Nos. 833-3622 / 833-1248
831-0648 / 651-4908 / 561-7869
Fax No. (833) 831-2581
E-mail: protech@proline.com

Escrow St. cor. Don Mariano
Cor St. Capital Site, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 255-6364
Tel./fax: (032) 254-5301
E-mail: protech@macosm.com

DAVAO OFFICE:
Unit B Alay Panto Compound
Pagu Pagu St., Davao City
Tel. No. (822) 221-5021
E-mail: protech@proline.com

U.S. OIL BURNER (RECON)
SINGLE PHASE, 1/2, 1/2, 3/4, 1 HP. MOTOR
0.5 TO 3 GPH, 115 VOLT, OR LARGER CAPACITY
A-LINE MKTG.
TEL: 733-1359
733-1352

Cityland's newest project...
OXFORD MANSION
A 10-story commercial & residential condominium
in close proximity to: EDSA, Ortigas, Robinson's East, Shangri-La, Makati East, Alabang, UP, FPM, MCA, Medical City
2003 Leading Condominium Developer
812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894 • 892-6150
(0919) 310-8553 www.cityland.net • invest@cityland.net

Heavy-Duty Cleaning?
LEAVE IT TO THE PRO!
ELITE
FROM THE #1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHING
X-PRO
WATER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted! Minimum 7% interest! No Default Payments Up to 74 days.
WH 2111
High Pressure Washer & Vacuum Cleaner for Professionals & Heavy-Duty Users!
CLEANITY COMMERCIAL INC.
MAIN OFFICE: 1851 M. Orosa St., Makati, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5344328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCH: 646 Geron Ave. Tel. 7430581 • 7430789

voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
PLATINUM 2004
voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND
GOLD 1999

FOR ALL YOUR
AUTO REPAIR AND
SERVICE NEEDS...

NAME IT! WE'VE GOT IT!

Anson Auto Service Center

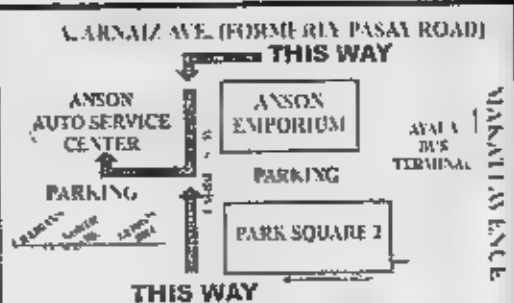
LOWEST PRICE YOU EXPECT IN THE TIME YOU WANT

DRIVE IN FOR A CHECK-UP!

SEE THE DIFFERENCE AND
FEEL THE RESULTS.

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ROAD CORNER WEST DRIVE, MAKATI CITY
8922212 • 8922213 • 8922214
8867552 • 8867551



OPEN MONDAY TO SUNDAY

FRIENDS. CAREER. SUCCESS.

make
happen
this
Christmas!

A Special Gift for family Members, Friends and You!
PERSONALITY AND EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT
GROOMING. MODELING. ACTING
The gift that lasts for a lifetime.
Enroll NOW at any level and get the NEXT LEVEL FREE!
Choose to start classes anytime before February 28, 2005.
Enrollment must be before December 31, 2004.
MAKE IT HAPPEN NOW! CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS

892 9511

John Robert Powers

www.johnrobertpowers.com

Casmer Building, 195 Salcedo St.
Laguardia Village, Makati
CONVENIENT PARKING NEARBY

Per DTI-NCR Permi No. A1-845 Series of 2004

SAVE UP TO
P30,000

PILOT
ERGONOMICALLY
RUBBERIZED
GRIP BALL
POINT PEN



BPS-GPF

The BPS-GP handles much lighter than other ball point pens, thus alleviating fatigue caused when writing for long periods

Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 C. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
DO BOX 1501 Tel.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax 242-5671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo Japan

Poe's last three weeks

From page A1

last 24 hours prior to his massive stroke, FPJ had been very happy and preoccupied with preparations for what would be his last get-together with close friends.

Manio said that on Friday night (Dec. 10) FPJ spent most of his time at his FPJ studios in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City, overseeing the packing of relief goods.

Studio's renovations

"He was also checking on the last stages of the studio's renovation. The bathrooms were finished that day just in time for the party and he was so excited about it," Manio shared. "Since November this year, the studio had been undergoing repairs. On one wall, FPJ had installed a photo montage that highlighted all the heroes he had portrayed through the years. A similar montage hangs in his Antipolo home and only recently, had decided to put an exact replica in his studio. 'He was so happy when he saw the pictures hanging on the wall. He was looking at it often, and was proud of it,' Manahan recalled.

Dec. 11

At 6 a.m. on Dec. 11, Manio said FPJ called her up to check on the giveaways he was planning to give to some special friends that evening during the party at the studio.

Among those invited to the dinner were a group of women graduates from Siena college, friends of his dating back to the early '70s. Manahan recalled how FPJ liked to unwind after working at the studio in a small dining place close by called "Satisfying Grace" which was owned by the Lozanos whose daughter Nanette eventually became part of FPJ's Siena gang. "He asked me if I had checked the price of the mini component system that he planned as gifts. I said that it seemed the 10 units would not be ready for the party," Manio related. They then agreed that she should just come over to FPJ's Greenhills home at 10 a.m. to finalize things.

At Poe's Greenhills home, all was quiet. FPJ's wife, Susan Rocas, had left early that morning to attend to the family rest house and farm in Batangas. At 10 a.m. Manio arrived to trim FPJ's hair and groom his nails. "He was excited about the party. Instead of the component system, he ordered 10 baskets of gourmet food from Santi's. He showed them to me," Manio recounted.

Around 11 a.m., Manio said that Poe's friend, former Merdeka films producer Elmer Lun came to visit. "They talked for a while. Then he had lunch."

Lunch was served in his bedroom by his

trusted aide Caloy. "Usually, he eats light. He had a small side table where he ate while watching TV," Manahan said.

Manio finished grooming Poe at around 2 p.m., and they agreed to meet in the evening for the party. FPJ spent the rest of the afternoon at home watching television and napping in between.

Light sleeper

Manahan explained that FPJ had always been a light sleeper, and that often as he watched TV, he would drift off to sleep, 30 minutes, one hour, sometimes for two hours. "It was heaven for him if he could sleep for four hours straight," Manahan said.

At around 6 p.m. Poe and his aide Caloy left for Cinema Audio studios to continue recording and editing his MTV project.

"He said he was going to approach San Miguel Corp. and Philippine Airlines for sponsorship. He told me, 'Zernan, if the sales are good, part of the proceeds, I'll donate to the Actor's Guild. That's how si Kuya Ronnie was. To the very last, he was thinking of other people,' Zernan recalled.

Finishing stages

The MTV was in the finishing stages. Poe was collaborating with friends actor Jimmy Fabregas, director Augusto Buenaventura and his nephew Jeffrey Sonora on the project.

The MTV, Manahan shared, includes film clips and soundtracks of all his famous movies showing him serenading his leading ladies.

The final cut would have shown him singing, what Manahan described as one of FPJ's favorite songs, "Doon Lang" to leading lady Maricel Soriano in the film "Batang Quiapo."

'Doon Lang'

Manahan said that the lyrics of the song somehow described FPJ's life. "We had goose bumps when we remembered his wish for that song to end his MTV."

What did it mean? "Doon Lang"? When we think about it, it's like he was saying goodbye.

Early Friday evening, the mood at the FPJ studios was festive. Tables were set for 40 people though Poe only expected about 25 of his close friends to arrive. He was most excited to meet up with his Siena gang whom he had not seen in a while.

Among the dishes served that evening were *estofado*, chicken with vegetables, roasted calf, *sotanghon*, beef with broccoli, *leche flan* and macaroni salad.

FPJ arrived from his recording session at around 8:30 p.m. He went around, greeted his guests and sat down to dinner in a

round table by the basketball court. In his table that evening were Fabregas, Salvador, Rep. Chiz Escudero, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and old friend Jog de Castro. Dressed in a striped polo shirt over maong pants, he was in a happy mood and was trading stories and laughing with his friends.

Soft heart for waiters

At around 10 p.m. he called Manio aside and reminded her to give the waiters P500 each for their services that evening.

Waiters, according to Manahan, have always held a special place in FPJ's heart. Many, many years ago, when he was just starting out, Manahan said that FPJ was out on a date. When the bill came, he realized that he was short on cash. He sat fidgeting in the restaurant until a kind head waiter noticed his unease and asked him what the problem was. When he told him his dilemma, the waiter shelled out some of his own money and gave it to FPJ. "Since then, he never forgot the kindness shown him, and he took good care of every waiter he met," Manahan said.

Second beer

It was about 10:30 p.m., FPJ was on his second beer. He rang up boxer Manny Pacquiao to congratulate him on his latest triumph. A few minutes later a commotion in his table occurred. All of a sudden FPJ had thrown up.

"I knew instantly that something was wrong because in all the years that I had known Kuya Ronnie, that never happened," Manahan recalled.

Looked unconscious

His friends became frantic as Caloy rushed over with a towel, manager Susan Tagle also ran to his side. Manio tried to revive him, wiping his brow and cheeks with a cool towel and some ice.

"He looked unconscious. Right away Mayor Binay said let's rush him to the nearest hospital," Manahan recounted.

In a flash, Manio, FPJ's driver, backed up Poe's car into the driveway and his friends gently loaded him into his white Toyota Land Cruiser. Speeding off into the night, with a security car ahead of the convoy, Poe remained quiet and still as his driver and aide drove furiously to Saint Luke's Medical Center.

Upon arrival, as he was brought down from his vehicle onto a wheelchair, Manio recalled Caloy saying that he whispered to his boss, "Andito na po tayo sa St. Luke's (We're here at St. Luke's)."

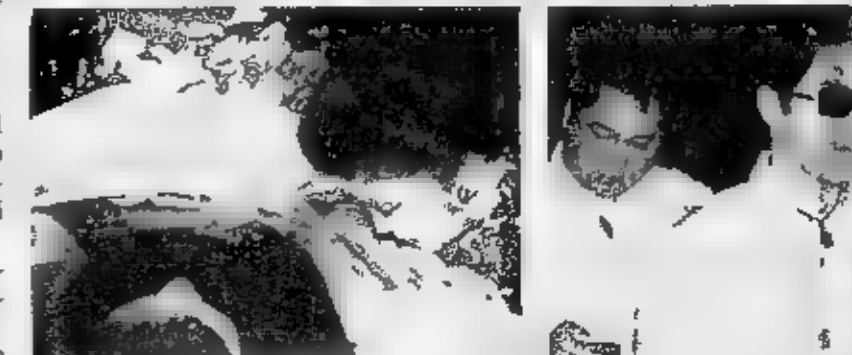
Manio said that Caloy told him that FPJ looked around and then gazed heavenward before he slipped into a deep, deep sleep.



HERE lies Fernando Poe Jr., revered and dearly beloved by his colleagues in the



VIPS at the Arlington East Funeral Homes in Pasig City on Tuesday included House Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Gina. REM ZAMORA



A BLAST from the political past, Bro. Mike consoles with the widow. PULLING at the floral offering from Pres. gusto outside the Sto. Domingo Church

Palace offers to make FPJ National Artist

From page A1

cio Bunye when he came to visit Poe's body at the Arlington Chapel the other day.

Bunye also discussed the possibility of burying Poe at the Libingan ng mga Bayan in Makati but said that Poe must be first declared a National Artist to be eligible for burial at the Libingan, according to Marcos.

Marcos said that Poe's family was not keen on burying Poe at the Libingan and would rather bury the body at the place of their choice.

She said that declaring Poe a National Artist would be more appropriate considering his achievements as an actor, writer, director and producer.

At the Commission on Appointments hearing on the confirmation of Bunye's appointment, Marcos said she asked the press secretary if the offer was true and if the declaration would indeed be made on Dec. 21, the night before Poe's burial.

Amador and Canseco too

She said that Bunye mentioned about the "sense" in Malacañang to also include Zenaida Amador and George Canseco in the declaration. Amador was one of the founders of Repertory Philippines while Canseco was a prolific songwriter.

In a statement, Bunye said it would not stand in the way of giving honors to Poe if there was a clamor from the people.

"We will go by the wishes of the people and our institutions, as well as the bereaved family, on the matter of bequeathing the proper tribute to honor Fernando Poe Jr.," Bunye said.

Though she was being spurned by Poe's supporters, Ms Arroyo was paying respects to Poe in her own quiet way.

Before delivering her speech at an awards ceremony of the Commission on Overseas Filipinos in Malacañang, Ms Arroyo asked the audience to pray for Poe.

"Let me ask everyone to bow your heads in silent prayer for the eternal rest of a beloved Filipino, the late Fernando Poe Jr.," the President said.

Calling herself a fan of the former action star, the President expressed her grief at his death and urged the country not to bring politics into the mourning period.

Destabilization moves

However, in a speech on Tuesday, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel urged the President to stay away from Poe's wake to prevent violence.

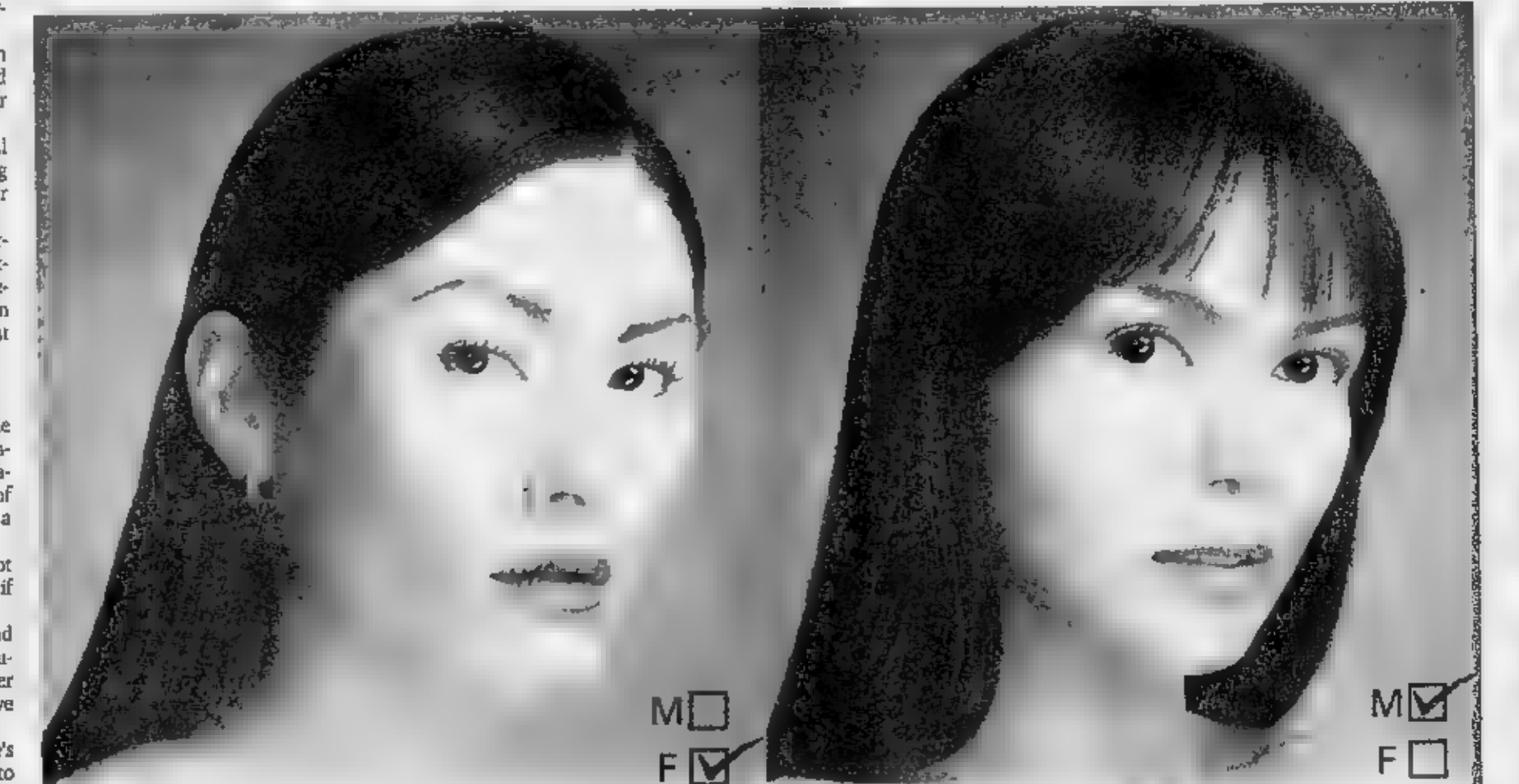
The death of Poe sent political shock waves

throughout the country, with some seeking to use his sudden demise as a platform to attack Ms Arroyo.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson conceded that the death of Poe would elicit strong emotions from the movie star's supporters but he did not think this would lead to

destabilization moves against the administration.

Lacson was reacting to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's warning the other day that "professional saboteurs" would manipulate and exploit the grief of Poe's supporters. (See continuation opposite page.)



Congratulations, Cynthia Valdez of La Union, for guessing correctly. You win a pair of His and Hers Tag Heuer watches.

The following get gift packs from One-A-Day:

- Bonifacio Gerard Villareal, Batangas City
- Ramon Daniel Novales, Calocan City
- Christopher Uy, Valle Verde, Pasig City
- Arle Mendoza, Angeles City, Pampanga
- Annel Mendoza, Gulud Lince, Batangas City
- Ma. Ofelia C. Soriano, Commonwealth Ave., D.C.
- Paulita Ramirez, Pagasa, D.C.
- Ms. Ronita Santos, Blount, Pangasinan City
- Joanette Pinlac, Mandaluyong City
- Divina Soyson, Baguio City

If you didn't see the difference, don't worry. Because One-A-Day can. It's the multivitamin and mineral formula that knows men and women have different nutritional needs. That's why it's gender-specific.

ONE A DAY

ONE A DAY

Best COPY AVAILABLE

Rabid fans mob FPJ wake

From page A1

right entrance and toward where Poe's coffin lay at the St. Martin Chapel.

A 15-meter wooden divider had been put up to separate that wing from the rest of the church's interior.

For sidewalk vendor Ursula Macawili, 52, the crowd was proving to be "bigger and more chaotic" than the one that turned up for the wake, held in the same church, for the assassinated opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. in August 1983.

"The crowd was swelling even before [Poe's coffin] got here," said Macawili, who in 1983 was already selling newspapers and religious items at one of the church gates.

But Macawili is not exactly an objective crowd estimator.

She proclaimed herself not only a fan of FPJ but also a "witness" to his acts of generosity. For example, she said, the movie star distributed bags of groceries and P2,000 each to victims of a fire that razed her cousin's neighborhood on Luzon Avenue in Quezon City years ago.

No Ninoy

Unlike the disturbing image of the dead Ninoy Aquino with his bruised face and blood-stained clothes, the dead Poe had a smile that evoked good memories—hardly the stuff that would inspire a people's uprising.

In fact, show biz prevailed over politics on Tuesday night until the wee hours of Wednesday, the first night of the wake.

"There's deep-seated resentment, but the rage, the passion—they are not just there," entertainment writer Isah Red said after viewing the crowd at the churchyard.

Red, who was also at the Aquino wake 21 years ago, said there was no comparison between the two deaths—"unless FPJ was assassinated, [in which case] the people will have a concrete reason to blame the government for his death."

More than a million people turned out for Aquino's funeral, which also marked the start of protest actions against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Three years later, Marcos was ousted after a four-day "people power" revolt.

Thousands turned out on the first night of the wake for Poe at St. Domingo Church, but the crowd thinned out by daybreak.

Hours before midnight, furious fans tore apart a wreath sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, and later destroyed another wreath from Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"Are they insulting us?" a man shouted. "Now, let's wait for the wreath from [Senate President Franklin] Drilon," his companion said.

No one fainted at the sight of the dead Poe, who looked debonair in a blue suit and a blue tie with white polka dots.

And whatever anger seethed in the hearts of his fans was quickly doused by the sight of Robin Padilla, Jestoni Alarcon, or even a bleached-blond Mystica on the arm of a young lover.

In August 1983, only a handful of movie stars showed up for Aquino, whose sister, Lupita, was herself a movie director. The rest stayed away for fear of offending Imelda Marcos, who had established herself as a patroness of the arts.

But the show biz denizens active in the anti-Marcos protest rallies, like Behn Cervantes, Mitch Valdez and Jim Paredes, among others, were noticeably absent at Poe's wake.

Those who turned out in droves were the stuntmen and their families, production coordinators and workers, bit players, and fiercely loyal fans who had known Poe and his wife, Susan Rocas, for nearly five decades.

There was Paz Cantos, 65, who said she was only 15 when she became a Rocas fan.

"I have been Susan's follower for 48 years, and there are many of us who have been their fans for so many years," she said.

Cantos said former fans had been employed by the Poe household, and many others were volunteering to assist in the wake.

"Dory, a former fan of Rosemarie [Sonora, Rocas' sister], is now with Susan. Angge, formerly with Ronnie [Poe], then Susan, is now with Nora [Aunor]. Me, I've always been with Susan," she said proudly.

Personal encounter

At least one man, Luis Roxas, 47, had begun hawking FPJ merchandise—arm warmers (elbow protectors typically worn by basketball players) with an embossed "I Love FPJ" slogan, for P50 a pair.

Like Ursula Macawili, Roxas claimed to have had a personal encounter with Poe. He said he once worked as a "still man" employed by Regal Films in one of Poe's action movies.

But not fruit vendor Elisea Matias, 75. Nevertheless, she waited for at least eight hours to get a glimpse of him.

"I want to see him for the last time, then I can go home," she told the INQUIRER.

Matias fought back tears as she spoke of her idol and hero: "I loved all his movies, and I voted for him in May."

This fierce determination to see the fallen icon was shared by thousands of others.

The hearse bearing Poe's body arrived at the St. Domingo Church from the Arlington East funeral home in Pasig City a few minutes past midnight yesterday.

At 2 a.m., the gates of the St. Martin Chapel, were still shut. Bishop Teodoro Bacani was then celebrating Mass.

By that time, the crowd had numbered 5,000, according to a conservative police esti-

mate.

As soon as news spread that the body had arrived, the crowd pushed closer to the chapel as organizers and marshals struggled to keep them at bay.

The fans invaded the tents set up for the media, and served as background for TV journalists reporting live.

Since Tuesday night

Those who had been waiting for hours were expectedly irritated.

"I've been here since 7 p.m. [Tuesday]," said slim young woman who was tugging at a sleepy child.

"I heard on TV that there would be no difficulty seeing him. Can't you ask them to let us in now?" she pleaded.

The actors coming to pay their respects kept the crowd entertained for a while.

A yell of relief filled the air when the marshals started ushering people into the chapel at a little past 2 a.m.

The mourners got a chance to view the body for only a few seconds, but it was clearly enough for his fans.

Some emerged from the chapel smiling, others looked shaken. A woman sobbed in consolably as she was led away by her companion.

Elderly women held hands as they came out, their eyes wet with tears.

"I saw his face. He looked so calm. It's as if he's just sleeping," said Natividad Henson, 60.

"I'm happy and sad. Happy because I saw him even just briefly, and sad because it's such a waste for him to have died this early. But I know that wherever he is, he's happy now," she said.

'FPJ! FPJ!'

The hearse bearing Poe's body emerged from the Arlington East gates at around 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, with the crowd chanting "FPJ! FPJ!"

A number of pick-up trucks and motorcycles followed the funeral convoy as it cruised through Tramo Street, Ortigas in San Juan and Aurora Boulevard, where people in their night clothes lined the streets, holding lighted candles.

Some of them said they had been closely monitoring events on the radio and had been waiting outside their homes as early as 10 p.m.

But Janeth Ignacio, a diehard fan of Poe's, had a bit of bad luck. He parked his Isuzu Highlander (with plate URW-782) on Mercedes Avenue corner C. Raymundo Street to go to Arlington East.

When he returned to his vehicle, he said, he found that it had been forced open and that P15,000 and his Nokia cell phone 7650 were missing. With a report from Ruth L. Navarra

Palace offers ...

Lacson, who ran for president early this year after failing to agree with Poe on who between them should step down and represent the opposition, said he would go to St. Domingo Church in Quezon City where Poe's remains lie.

Half staff

At the House of Representatives and the Senate, allies of the actor are appealing for the Philippine flag to fly at half-staff in his honor.

Opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara

said Poe deserved the honor because he was a man who stood out in his field.

Only two members of the majority bloc so far have expressed agreement to the proposal.

Administration Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said a House decision to lower the flag to half-staff at the Batasan Pambansa in Quezon City "would be a gesture of magnanimity."

"It can be a step forward in the process of healing the nation's political wounds," Zubiri said in an interview. "And politics aside, FPJ has been a part of our consciousness through the movies he has made."

Rep. Crispin Beltran (party-list Anakpawis) said he found nothing wrong with the proposal, noting that the "man deserved a tribute for a lifetime of service to the Filipino people."

"FPJ touched many lives. Many Filipinos especially the poor and downtrodden who saw him as their own hero would agree and laud such a gesture," Beltran said.

Committee on rules

House Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said the committee on rules, which he chairs, had asked the House legal division to issue an opinion regarding the proposal.

The proposal was referred to Nograles' committee after a heated debate on Tuesday afternoon following such a suggestion on the floor by Rep. Teofisto Guingona Jr. (LDR, Bukidnon).

Guingona said that the lowering of the flag to half-staff could be a "gesture of unity with the family in this period of mourning."

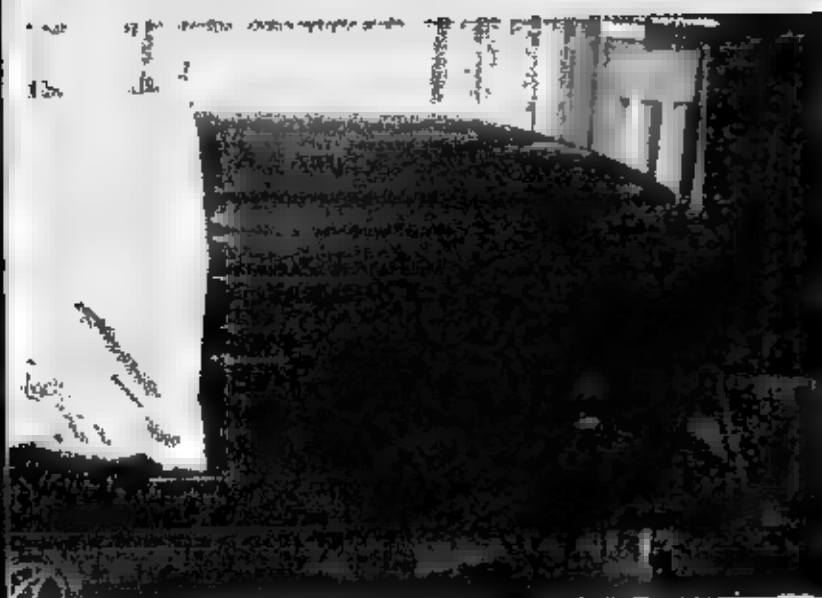
Republic Act No. 8491, or the Flag and Heraldic Code of 1998, says that the flag can be lowered to half-staff to honor the President or a former President, Vice President, Chief Justice, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House.

It also provides that the tribute can be accorded to "other persons" as may be determined by the National Historical Institute.

Sets precedent

But Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo (Kampi, Negros Occidental), a brother-in-law of the President, said it was up to Malacañang to decide on the matter.

"If we in the House allow it to happen, then all presidential candidates will have the same thing as this will set a precedent," Arroyo said. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Ruth L. Navarra



movie industry and by Filipinos from all walks of life.

REN ZAMORA



"BOSS" Danding Cojuangco, San Miguel chair, with wife Gretchen pay their last respects at the St. Domingo Church on Wednesday. Also in photo is Noel Trinidad.



President Arroyo, FPJ fanatics do it with in Tuesday night.

RAFFY LERMA

YESTERDAY'S stars Eddie Mesa, Rosemarie Gil are moved to tears.

REN ZAMORA



Congratulations, Rene J. Novisteros of North Cotabato, for guessing correctly. You win an Asian Cruise for 2.

The following get gift packs from One-A-Day:

- Jean Paul Gansben, Negros Occidental
- Oliver Fuentesplina, Jaro, Iloilo City
- Arlene Brigoli, Las Pintas City
- Alvin Aldrich Abrogana, Makati City
- Michelle S. Gaudario, Makati City
- Ms. Luz Coronel, Navotas, Metro Manila
- Dexter I. Ramos, San Juan, Metro Manila
- Glrite J. Flores, Makati City
- Jo Ann V. Legaspi, Ermita, Manila
- Khizer Nasaron, Los Baños, Laguna

If you didn't see the difference, don't worry. Because One-A-Day can. It's the multivitamin and mineral formula that knows men and women have different nutritional needs. That's why it's gender-specific.

Day of HealthCare



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN
0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 20 No. 8

OPINION

Text us your feedback: Inquirer op1 name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at:
 • China Road 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
 • Our telephone numbers are 897-4791, 897-4794, 897-4795, 897-4807
 • Editorial Fax 897-4791, 897-4794, 897-4795, 897-4807
 • Circulation 527-3342, 527-3348, 528-0134, 528-0135
 • 528-0134 and 528-0135 / Fax: 528-0134, 528-0135



Publisher ISAGANI YAMOGIT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCILLANO
News Editor ANTONIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • **Chief, News Day Desk** NILO B. PAUNON
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PABLO B. BANDAYRE JR.
City Editor GERRY LINO
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNEST U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLANBA
Board Chairman MARINO R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-RODRIGUEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing EDUARDO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services DAVID O. VALDES
VP for Advertising FELIPE B. CLARKE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA R. LARDEZABAL

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

In denial

MALACAÑANG is raising the bogey of a credit downgrade to push Congress into enacting several tax measures, said Sen. Joker Arroyo. The administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo has resorted to this "sickening" tactic of using foreign institutions in order to "achieve what it wants to achieve," he said. "Enough already of the much ballyhooed rating agencies and the impending downgrade... its effects have been and are already being felt."

Certainly everyone hopes the senator is right. If the recent upsurge in prices, the scaling down of government services and the fall of investments are all we have to endure, we should be grateful already. The 11 professors of the UP School of Economics, followed by other financial analysts both in and outside of government, warned of worse—much worse—things to come if government didn't act quickly enough to control the budget deficit and reduce its P5.4 trillion debt. They saw an Argentina-type financial meltdown, marked by bank runs, runaway inflation, food riots and widespread unrest and violence. And the government had two—at most three—years to act, they said.

Have we headed off the predicted economic disaster in just four months? Senator Arroyo apparently thinks so. That is why he wants Congress to pay no heed to the advice of credit-rating agencies, the impugning of Malacañang on the tax measures and, of course, the dire warnings of economists. And the miracle is that the threat has passed with hardly anyone lifting a finger to fix the huge budget deficit and the colossal debt yet.

But Senator Arroyo is not the first to arrive at the conclusion that the worst is over. The President beat him to it. After publicly admitting in August that her government was in the midst of a "fiscal crisis," she announced last month that the problem was behind us. And to repeat, nothing had been done yet to address the crisis.

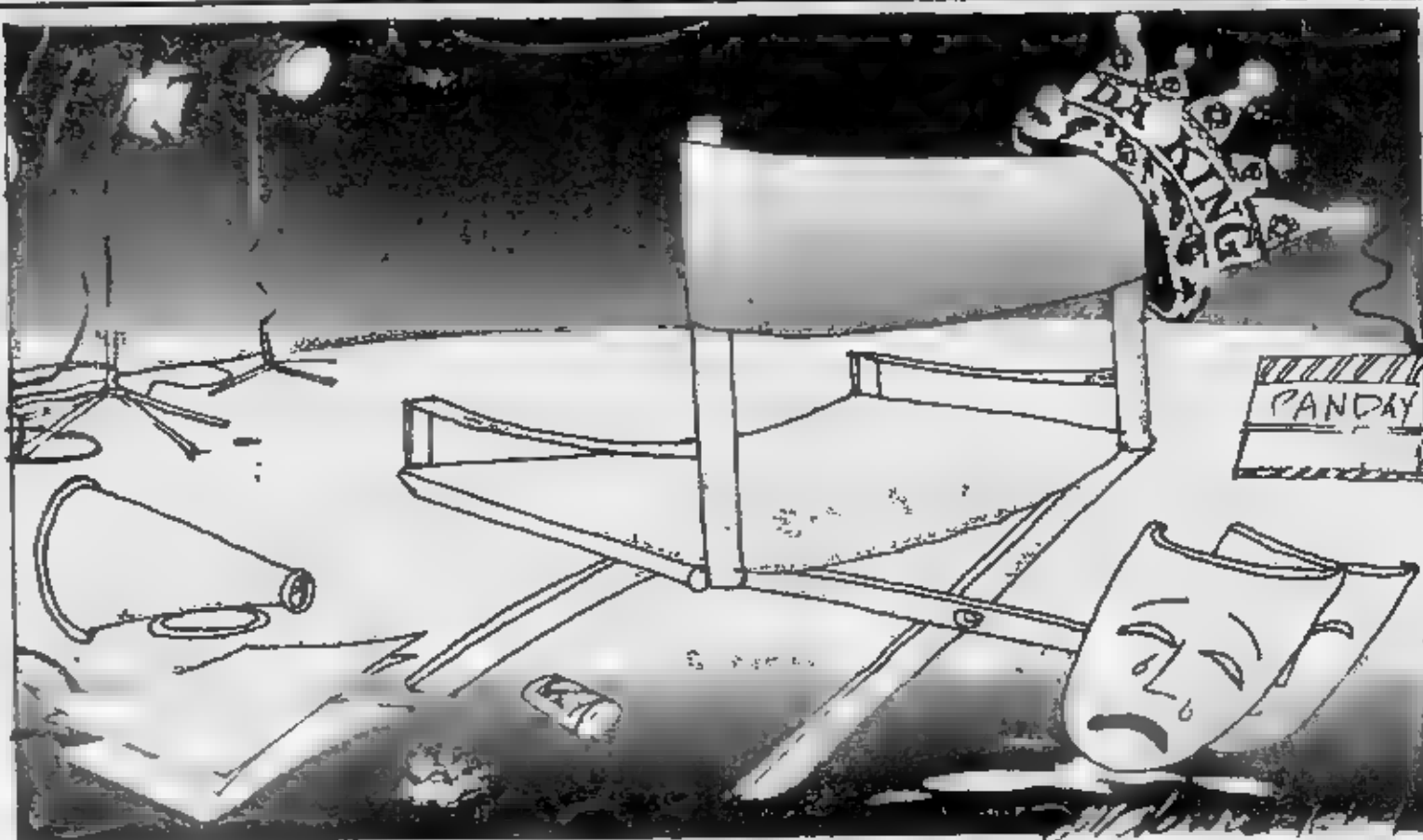
Except talk. There were plenty of proposals to tame the deficit and reduce the debt. The administration sent Congress eight new tax measures to raise added revenues and said it would trim down the bureaucracy, impose limits on the salaries and allowances of executives in government corporations and adopt a number of austerity measures. A number of Filipinos responded by chipping in several millions to a Bayanihan Fund or supporting a fund-raising campaign launched by Catholic Church leaders.

Only the citizens put their money where their mouths were. While a few senators promised to give up their pork barrel, the House of Representatives voted to keep all of the pork Malacañang had tucked into the budget for 2005. When local officials protested that they would be forced to cut back on vital services, the administration quietly dropped the proposal to cut the internal revenue allotments of provincial and municipal governments. In the meantime, Ms. Arroyo continued to appoint her staunchest political allies to newly created positions and offices as if the bureaucracy were not already bloated and top-heavy.

As the administration and its allies in Congress went back to business as usual, the citizens gradually found out that they have to bear the whole burden of dealing with the looming financial crisis. Power rates have been raised, along with water rates. The specific taxes on gasoline and other products are being increased. And then there are the eight new taxes Congress is working on, all of which will ultimately be taken from the citizens' pockets. It seems that the idea of sharing the burden, put forward by the 11 UP economists, has been conveniently dropped. Everything is being dumped on the citizenry.

With the President talking and acting as if there was no crisis, should we now believe Senator Arroyo when he dismisses those warnings about a ratings downgrade and its consequences as part of Malacañang's scare tactics? We wish we could. But not even he or the President swearing that no crisis exists or even looms can make that mountain of debt vanish. Neither would it persuade the ratings agencies to change their analyses of the situation nor make foreign investors rush in with their money.

The wide budget deficit and mounting debt need fixing and they cannot be fixed by wishing them away. Revenues have to be raised, fat has to be trimmed, waste has to be cut and corruption has to be checked. That is a tall order for any administration, of course, but the Arroyo administration must do all that to deal with a mountain of a problem.



Dying at the margins

THE DEATHS and damage inflicted by floods cascading from the Sierra Madres underscore how relentless resource extraction—heedless of the future—created communities of over 26.7 million "core poor" people, who now live and die at the margins of the country's troubled economy.

Ateneo University's "Communities At The Margins" documents how policy, crafted by an "aristocracy of the moneybags," creamed rich fish stocks, extensive mineral deposits and lush timber stands. In the process, it beggared a people and a nation.

This 316-page book presents nine studies on how the poor cope within degraded areas. They include Sierra Madres' "post-logging" groups, Cebu's migrant-fishermen and South Cotabato farmers.

The book's editors are: Germelino Bautista, former Philippine Institute of Culture director, and Hiromitsu Umehara of Rikkyo University. Umehara has written extensively on Philippine landlord-tenant relationships.

Filipino elites manipulated policy, over the decades, to wring from forests, mines and fishing grounds windfall profits. But these were splurged on luxuries, not shared equitably with workers. That guaranteed disaster.

Degraded reefs in the Panay Gulf and Bohol Sea yield only four to five metric tons of fish per square kilometer—compared to their original potential of 15 metric tons, scientists J. H. Primavera and E.D. Gomez note. Once the Philippines' largest marine export item, the almost extinct giant clams were banned for export in 1996.

The Sierra Madres, the Ateneo study notes, was "one of the last forest frontiers." Massive logging began in the early '70s. By then, Mindanao's forests, which once contained the world's best dipterocarp stands, had been chain-sawed to kindling.

In the late 1950s, about 802,000 hectares of forest lands were leased out. By mid-1970s, 10.2 million hectares of forestlands in the Sierra Madres were being logged over.

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



A skewed tax regime spurred exploitation. Laws offered little incentive for conservation or reinvestment, the Ateneo study notes. Except for low permit fees for commercial fishing and for the export of exotic aquarium species, fish fingerlings were not taxed. Low taxes on mining declined through time.

Loggers got "liberal annual allowable cuts, zero export taxes, declining forest charges that amounted to only 2 to 6 percent of log prices and high protective tariff," it adds.

"State functionaries also provided incentives indirectly by inaction, through the non-enforcement of penalties against logging damages...and illegal logging," a book understatement reads. That's street lingo for *katong*. No Quezon province cop, for example, would accompany Environment Secretary Michael Defensor's probe into logging firms.

Instead of reinvesting, extractors splurged on luxuries, real estate, bank accounts abroad or "consumer durables"—forerunners for overseas workers' families who rarely invest. Most spend for cell phones, TV video and motorcycles etc., an Asian Development study shows.

Continued economic viability hinged on "sustainable extraction." New Zealand or Australia invests in tree plantations and are assured of continuing harvests. That did not come to pass here.

"State policy had particular consequences for people." Logging camps, fishing ports and mining towns drew migrant workers. They, in turn, pushed indigenous communities deeper into the interior.

Along the coasts, commercial fishers dislodged small fisherfolk. They "were not literal-

ly driven out of their residences, but pushed into greater levels of poverty."

This model enriched those with economic means and political power. But little of the wealth creamed off by fishing magnates, loggers or mining families "trickled down." As Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith wrote, trickle down "is the less than elegant theory that if one feeds the horse enough oats, some will pass through the road for the sparrows."

Massive poverty instead persisted. One out of three families remain impoverished. The "core poor" includes workers, displaced from sunset industries like wood or sugar. They find themselves in households within calamity- or drought-prone areas. These vulnerable areas are without adequate water, sanitation or functioning irrigation systems.

Landless workers drift into towns or cities. Most remain jobless. Rural poverty is swapped for urban slum penury. "Population pressure and ecological degradation have already set the limits of internal migration," the book points out.

Voiceless and disorganized, they "burst from obscurity into TV screens only when their communities slip over the ecological cliff," the late Asian forester Sudhakar Rao wrote after mudfloods hit Southern Thailand and Ormoc.

The current debate focuses on who's to blame for Quezon's floods. That's irrelevant to a Philippines already mired in a "post-logging" era. Loggers are merely wiping out the last timber remnants. One of yesterday's wood prima-donnas, our country is among today's timber paupers.

In that poor house, policy must give priority to "those who have existed in the shadows of growth," Bautista and Umehara write. Needed is a strong national government and a local-level leadership that transcend politics to reconstitute community life. Otherwise, people will continue to live and die "at the margins of the Philippine political economy."

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Da King is dead, long live Da King

I HEARD about it last Sunday from a friend, Fernando Poe Jr. Keel over the night before and was rushed to St. Luke's. His condition was critical. While at the hospital, he had a seizure and went into a coma. By nightfall, he was on life support. It was just a question of when they would pull the plug.

This is a horrible year. At about the same time last Monday, our friend William Chua, a human rights lawyer and a partner in Haydee Yorac's law firm, also died. His death was not as sudden as FPJ's, but it was sudden by most other standards. He had a check-up early this year after feeling out of sorts, and was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at a fairly advanced stage. He was given months to live. He died a couple of hours earlier than FPJ. He was 48.

But I'll put off my elegy for William and look at FPJ first. There is no small irony in FPJ going ahead of his buddy, Joseph Estrada. I remember writing several columns in just before the 1998 elections saying the best position to run for was vice president. That was so, I said, because given Erap's state of health and his propensity to ruin it some more by drink and *lachen* (I don't know if sleeping around ruins or improves health), I wasn't sure he would finish his term.

Little did I realize how true that would be, though for quite different reasons. Erap would truly not finish his term, but not for failing health. Even less did I realize the vice president would take his place, only to proceed to ruin the health of her country.

But the bigger irony is that during the last elections people worried not over FPJ's health but over Raul Roco's. Roco had to fly to the United States in the thick of the campaign to seek emergency treatment for a recurrence of prostate cancer. I saw him last Saturday at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani, and he couldn't have been healthier or more energetic. He radiated amiability and good cheer.

In any case, I've never thought voting on the basis of a person's health was a wise thing to do. You want to vote wisely, vote on the basis of a person's mental and moral health, not his

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



physical one. A good leader who serves for a short time is always preferable to a bad leader who serves for a long time. The first is bliss, the second is hell.

I don't know that I would have liked to have FPJ as my president. But I do know he was not the greater evil and GMA the lesser one in the elections, which is how GMA sold herself. If the choice were merely between GMA and FPJ (and it was never so), I'd pick FPJ anytime. A person with a good heart who means well, however he doesn't know the first thing about government, is infinitely better than a person with a good head who means ill, however she sandpapers things with PR intelligence is not a boon to the nation if it resides in the head of a hustler. It is a bane to it.

I already said my piece there during the campaign, and it is to FPJ's credit that he never took the things I said against him against me. On the one occasion I spoke to him before the elections, he never brought it up. He only thanked me for saying that when I was a kid I thrilled to see him play Daniel Barrion in the movies. He didn't know too many people who still remembered Daniel Barrion, much less saw his movies about Daniel Barrion. Most people remembered only Asedillo and Ang Panday. He spoke softly, much as he did in his movies, before the thugs pushed him to the wall and he defended himself with fast gun and flying fists. He was a gracious man, a monumental virtue in these ungracious times.

In any case, none of our objections to his presidential bid may allow us to slip FPJ surreptitiously into the footnotes of history, as a cultural icon that made the mistake of plunging in-

to politics in the twilight of his career. I say this in particular because I've heard a number of people say, "But na lang, FPJ didn't become president or else we would now have Noli de Castro, or worse, Loren Legarda, for president!"

Well, maybe that would be a worse pass, but that doesn't excuse the silence of the Edsa I and II forces, notably civil society, in the face of GMA bankrupting government to campaign. That doesn't excuse the silence of the Edsa I and II forces, notably civil society, in the face of the statistical improbability that was the Cebu results. That doesn't excuse the silence of the Edsa I and II forces, notably civil society, in the face of the blatant efforts of the Commission on Elections and Congress to substitute their will for that of the voting public.

And all this presumably to prevent the "greater evil" from becoming president. That succeeded only in assuring the greater evil truly would. A greater evil that includes the Edsa I and II forces, including civil society, conspiring to thwart the sovereign will. I don't know that FPJ, and not GMA, won the elections. I do know the process was raped thoroughly. I cannot fault the majority of Filipinos who, if Ibon and SWS are to be believed, are convinced the wrong president sits in Malacañang. I was not one of those who wanted FPJ to be president, but that is neither here nor there. How the people actually voted is the only thing that matters. That is what elections are for. That is what democracy is for.

What irony that FPJ should be felled at the very time he was buckling down for a long fight for recognition as the rightful tenant of the house by the Pasig. I'm glad at least his supporters are determined to pick up the cudgels for him. Meanwhile, I grieve with the rest of them and go to bury a president.

The King is dead, long live Da King.

Just a reminder: Our benefit for the victims of the storms is on Dec. 20 at Conspiracy Café along Visayas Avenue. We'll start early, at 8 p.m., nang makarami. Right to snore, of course.

Unfair to FPJ

POLITICAL
TIDBITSBelinda
Olivares-Cunanan

pened to it?) and penalize swerving, then traffic in Metro Manila would become tolerable even during this Christmas season. Paging MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

In the recent media blitz on the 18th corporate survey conducted by the Wallace Business Forum, WBF president Peter Wallace stressed the importance of consistent policies and of honoring contracts in attracting foreign investors. "You can't invest in a country for 50 years where the policy will change every two or three years," he said. He added that the recent reversal by the Supreme Court of its earlier decision to nullify the Mining Act of 1995 is a sign that the SC has realized that it has to "minimize judicial intervention in legitimate business operations." Wallace also scored the bureaucratic red tape in setting up new businesses, despite the President's pledge to minimize them. About a dozen forms need to be filled out here, he said, compared to Australia's two forms. "It's complexity that drives businesses underground, when what you want is for them to surface, so that they can be taxed," he said.

Wallace noted that another factor that frightens foreign businessmen is the corruption here. Obviously determined to curb this problem, the Arroyo administration has stepped up its war against technical smuggling, which has been a subject of many complaints from foreign investors for sometime. In connection with this, I note the recent ad—signed by eight leaders of business alliances, among them former Sen. Wigberto Dañata, lead convener of the Fair Trade Alliance—lauding GMA's reactivation of

the National Anti-Smuggling Task Force under Secretary Angelo Reyes. Now let's see some real teeth put into that task force.

Wallace also emphasized the increasing importance of the English language, noting that allied IT businesses, such as the call centers, backroom services and medical transcription, are gathering steam here. I recall how President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her recent meeting with Inquirer officials and staff, expressed her pleasure in inaugurating a call center in Dumaguete City. Wallace, however, said that RP lost its competitive edge in English some years back due to some foggy nationalistic notions, but it has to recover that edge, as the demand for people well-versed in English is fast increasing. He noted that a new call center plans to put up 2,000 seats, but it only has a take-up rate of 2 percent.

Earlier, I wrote that these IT service industries ought to be encouraged as they involve high-tech training for our people who are able to get well-paying jobs here; as a result, they don't have to go hunting for jobs abroad. I'm also glad to note that our colleges and universities are riding on this demand and are striking up partnerships with the concerned industries.

For instance, Dr. Elizabeth Quirino-Lahoz, president of the Technological Institute of the Philippines, told me recently that TIP's "strategic focus" is to strengthen its orientation as a technological school. Toward this end, it has introduced many new courses in information and communication technology. Its latest academic program, offered only at TIP, is the four-year Bachelor of Science in Commerce, major in Logistics Management. It's an academic-industry partnership between TIP and Transprocure, a global procurement services company that provides the technical teacher-training assistance for TIP's new program. Dr. Lahoz pointed out that graduates of this logistics program could go into many fields, not the least of which are business processes outsourcing and customer care and service.

'Sick of the Times'

HUMAN
FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



The June 1981 issue had for its banner "Luzon mortgaged." The lead paragraph: "The US State Department today announced its acceptance of the Philippine government's offer to pledge the island of Luzon as security for its mounting foreign debts which as of March 1981 stood at \$13.1 billion."

"Two real estate agents from Beverly Hills have been dispatched by Washington to sign the deed of mortgage. They will be met at the airport by Foreign Minister and designer-jeans tycoon Carlo Roma and his beautiful wife... Later in the evening, the two guests will be feted on board the presidential yacht RPS Sex-sex-sex. The sleek boat was reportedly donated by a Japanese sex tour operator."

Meanwhile... "Angarbo Angarapal became the 14th president of the University of the Philippines following a protracted us-usu struggle between equally talented sycophants..."

But the side-splitting stuff were the trivia, letters to the editor, ads, comics and announcements. "Try New Improved Boycott: Helps Relieve Dictatorship Pains." "Gagong Lipunan Government Primer" lists the government ministries with their logos and services.

"Ministry of Public Information-government agency hostile to facts. Training ground of the country's leading fiction writers."

"National Bureau of Investigation—otherwise known as the Malacañang Garden Society because of its penchant for planting evidence as in the case of Quintero and Cimaco."

The Ministry of Settlements was "shittlements" and the New Society motto "Higit sa Lahat Tao" became "Higit sa lahat tao."

Among "Kasey Sakim's 20 Greatest Hits of the

New Society" were "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by the NPA Concert Chorus; "You Light Up My Life" by Ed Olaguer and the Matchsticks (remember the Light-a-Fire Movement?); "First of May" by Lando Olalia and the KMFU Orchestra; "I've Got You Under My Skin" by Redie and the Lupus; "Leaving on a Jet Plane" by the Dewey Dee and Fluvio Magpayo Duet. And many more.

The hit song "We are the World (USA for Africa)" was rewritten as "We are the World (US-Aid Appeals)."

Read any good papers lately? "Read Daily Eggless, Bulshitin Today and Fame Journal."

A warning notice: "Mag-ingat sa ASSO: The bad truth about rules in the Armed Forces."

When I thought my house might be "visited," I kept my stack of "Sick" copies in a very unlikely storage spot. When the military came to search for persons and publications, they found nothing.

Once a huffing William arrived somewhere saying he almost drove right smack into a military search operation somewhere with his car full of "Sick." He was paper white.

The last issue, named "Nineteen Eighty Sick," came out during the 1986 snap elections. The headline: "Imelda declines VP slot." Below it was "Psychic sees FM win." On the last page was Marcos' last will and testament.

"I, Ferdinand E. Marcos, of legal age, married to Imelda Romualdez, being of sound and disposing mind, do by these presents declare this to be my last will and testament which I have caused to be written in the King's English, a language which is known to me and better left alone by my wife..."

William was ready to go and, I was told, that at some point he even looked forward to that wondrous moment, "God loves me," he would say. But he loved his family so much he wished he could be around for Christmas.

During our last face-to-face talk, long before he lapsed into a pain-free sleep, I asked him how he would describe his life. William answered: "There was no space left unfilled."

Send comments to ceresp@nfa.com.ph

Eclipse

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



connection between leaders and those they lead. A leadership that understood the yearning for strength, for a strong will, tempered by compassion and, most of all, for a healthy respect for the least who make up the most. His candidacy was not of the stupid leading the blind, as many of his opponents wanted to portray it. It was, at worst, of the idealistic leading the naïve, insisting that the only qualifications for national leadership were the simple constitutional requirements of age, literacy, birth and citizenship. At best, his candidacy was based on the premise that the politics of division and cynical spin-doctoring could be replaced by the politics of unity and populism, in its positive sense, thus bringing back the government to the people.

The people yearn for a reconnection between those who govern and the governed. After having a brief taste of it, they wanted more; the country requires that it move forward. Did FPJ gamble on the fact that this primal connection between himself and his fans would carry the day? I think so. And surely he had hoped that the politicians swarming around him would see—as he so clearly saw—that the country needed order and unity. In his mind, the two were indivisible, inseparable: that is how he had lived his life, according to the principles of order and unity. But the politicians didn't see it; even if they did, they just paid it lip-service, when they weren't busy jockeying for advantage. This obviously disgusted a man whose show business success was achieved through the combination of hard work, instinc-

tive marketing and positioning, and stacking the odds. He had everything going for him, except unity among his political operatives. There was also a line he would not cross: he would not act ungentlemanly, he would not unleash the mob; he tried mightily to maintain his tight self-control, and was ashamed when he'd lose his temper in public or see the chaos within his campaign.

His opponents were more united, more disciplined, more orderly and completely shameless in fighting him. The man who wanted to lead a positive campaign found his campaign sinking beneath the weight of the disloyalty, greed, disunity and disorder of his political allies; and the mercenary tendencies of an electorate so impoverished, it couldn't muster the means to aim their idol with the antidote: their honest votes and the defense of those votes. Their frenzy at the hustlings didn't translate into a tidal wave at the polls.

The same frenzy was there when he lost, but he shrunk, as he'd always shrunk, from unleashing the worst inclinations of the dispossessed. The same frenzy is there in the hotheads who tore apart the presidential wreath at his wake, and in the mutterings of politicians who contributed to his defeat but want to maximize the political fallout from his death. Order and unity is what Poe's candidacy was about, and what his life, in his chosen field, had achieved. I said he was a conservative man, and I meant it in the best sense of the word: he cherished hard work, he valued his property, he was proud of his career, he paid his debts of honor and gratitude. And he was that profoundly old-fashioned type of man, the kind who both demanded respect and gave it. The final—political—tragedy of his life was the tragedy of his people, played in his unfortunate political fate: good intentions, a strong will, a life of achievement are, all too often, not enough. At his wake, pickpockets are at work, turning in death what he so strongly wanted in life: dignity for everybody.

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

When nature strikes

MY cousin Eric and I decided to spend the long weekend (thanks to the angry weather) playing cards and straining our eyes in a seemingly endless film marathon. While super-typhoon "Yoyong" was wreaking havoc in Aurora and Quezon, we who were just mounds of land away were busy munching on Boy Bawang with our eyes fixed on the 14-inch idiot box. While people were being buried alive in some parts

of the country, we were being couch potatoes watching the devastation in New York caused by the unexpected

catastrophe of a "sudden shift of climate" in "The Day After Tomorrow."

Irony? Downright unfair? Honestly, I've been starting to look at life in this light lately. Ironic, unfair—no question about it, life is like that. In fact, it has always been that way. It's just that it has started making this side of it more felt lately.

I should put more emphasis on the this-side-of-life part of my previous statement, though. I mean, life is unfair all right but it is not just that. It offers more, both positive and negative. Remember life is a paradox. What I mean is that it is weirdly capable of presenting two extremely contradictory stuff that make us, creatures, see the contradiction, which in turn drives us to the edge of our sanity because it completely boggles our mind to deal with questions like: How come I feel this urge to do something to help victims of the super typhoon and I feel like I'm committing a crime sitting here seemingly content in the company of Boy Bawang, and yet I continue to do nothing? I want to be relieved of this burden of sympathy that is so great that it hurts.

No, I think I made a mistake. Maybe life is not unfair after all. It may be cruel sometimes, but then being cruel doesn't always mean being unfair, right? You see, perhaps life is devoted to the ancient code. Maybe it follows strictly the part of the code that demands an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. No kidding. Maybe life has a religion. And unfortunately (for us at least), in life's religion, the code is taken seriously.

Now let's consider this and look at life in this light: Maybe life, for some reasons I can't figure out at the moment, graciously allowed us to experience it and, with that privilege, comes an acquaintance with nature, which in turn bargains with us and allows us to have everything we want that it has and can give for some price (just like a high-class courtesan). And what would be the price? Refer to life's religion. Bottom line: We have to treat nature kindly—or else.

At this point, I admit I'm quite confused by my own exposition that I won't feel offended in the least if you would admit that we are on the same boat. But let me assure you that you'll get something here. It may not be something grand, but I tell you it's definitely something important. So please read on.

Life may sound like a paradox. Again I'm debunking my earlier statement saying that life is a paradox. This time, I would like to rephrase what I said and say that it may sound like one but it is not exactly so. Definitely not as far as the situation that makes me feel guilty is concerned.

You see, I think life and nature share a very special bond. They may be in some sort of a relationship. I don't have any idea whether the relationship is platonic or romantic, simple or complicated or whether it is an arrangement between equals or one is superior to the other. But definitely it is an important relationship. The relationship is valuable to both parties.

Which probably explains the catastrophe that hits us humans whenever we exploit nature. Or to put it figuratively, when we mercilessly rape it. I mean nature may be a prostitute that welcomes everyone and allows all to use it, but even prostitutes are entitled to their own choices, right?

And then there's life which values nature. Life considers nature as something important. And when one looks at something as important, we can never know to what extent it will go to protect or avenge that something. And life has a religion.

If this is not so, I can think of only one possibility that may explain why I was sitting on a couch munching on Boy Bawang while others were being buried alive just a few mounds of land away. Perhaps, it is indeed true that there is a God.

Chloe Nina L. Ballesteros, 20, is a Communication Arts graduate of the University of the Philippines and currently teaching English and literary subjects in a state university.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Recycled wishes

"The people deserve more from this government than cheesy and recycled Christmas wishes."
—Renato Reyes, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, on the government's statements that one can still have a happy Christmas if he or she does not look just for material things

Crucifying acts

"It's like being crucified."
—Comedianne Tessa Tomas on live comedy acts

The worst

"I have been a commissioner for 21 years, this is the worst game I have ever seen, period."
—National Basketball Association commissioner David Stern, after suspending Indiana Pacers player Ron Artest who started a melee between players and Detroit Pistons supporters

The best

"But I cannot allow personal friendship and utang na loob (personal debt) to color my judgment on who is best for the university."
—University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo on voting for Emerlinda Roman as the next UP president instead of his friend and Malacañang candidate Edgardo Espiritu

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



I NEVER had the opportunity of meeting Fernando Poe Jr. personally when he was alive. But from what I have read and heard about him in death, he was obviously one of the most loved Filipinos. Perhaps, it was the aura of sincerity and simplicity he projected—he seemed like a very gentle person. But I think it is wrong to say that what killed him was his grief over his election loss after having been allegedly cheated out of victory last May, as detained President Estrada is trying to make us believe.

In the first place, that loss was seven months ago. Secondly, it was obvious from the beginning that FPJ never relished being a candidate; he was just forced to run for president by opposition leaders who thought they didn't have any other viable candidate. It was evident especially toward the homestretch of the campaign that he couldn't physically hack the rigors of politics. After the elections, FPJ certainly didn't look angry over his defeat; in fact, he seemed relieved. As his widow Susan Rocas put it, FPJ's death may have been caused by hereditary factors; to blame that to his loss in the elections is to be untruthful and unfair to him.

Two things must be emphasized. First, our water supply in Metro Manila may be reaching a precarious level, with the damaged 13-km tunnel which brings water from the Umlay River in Aurora-Quezon to Angat Dam still to be repaired. The tunnel was badly damaged by the onrush of logs during the recent typhoons and it is not sure if the repair could be done in the next few weeks. The public is requested to conserve water, and there are practical ways of doing this, as the Inquirer editorial noted. Among them: by using pails, not hoses, when washing cars; and turning off faucets when soaping one's face or brushing the teeth. Let's also inspect our water systems for leaks and dripping faucets.

Second, traffic in the metropolis has become very horrendous. But if you notice, this is due to the swerving of buses in the mall areas. If the Metro Manila Development Authority can bring back its once-effective campaign to limit buses to the yellow lanes (whatever hap-

A WEEPY week it could have been, what with William Chua leaving for the Great Courtroom in the Sky. Sure this is a time for weeping, but this is also a time for celebrating a great life. A great friend of 25 years William was to me and many others who had pen as weapon and to his fellow human rights lawyers who knew what a good fight meant. (See yesterday's Inquirer front-page news story, "Human rights champion William Chua dies; 49")

William passed away in the evening of Dec. 13 after a six-month battle with pancreatic cancer which he faced with vigor and grace. He spent his last few days at St. Luke's Hospital where there was a big commotion because movie king Fernando Poe Jr. was there lying comatose after suffering a stroke. (FPJ died Tuesday, a minute after midnight.) One had to wade through the endless stream of cars and the throng of fans and politicians. Parking was a nightmare. Oh God, I thought, would I ever get there? I did and by the time I left, the crowd had thickened.

The scene outside was surreal. Inside, in his own little space, warmed by soft lights and the prayers of family and friends around him, William waited, then gently slipped away and passed on to the Great Beyond.

My story yesterday said that William was the anonymous publisher/editor of the well-remembered "Sick of the Times" that spoofed and satirized the excesses of the Marcos dictatorship through jokes, essays and illustrations. Okay, I will now confess that I was one of the cub writers. The rest will have to remain unknown. But why will I not reveal that PCGG head and recent Magsaysay Awardee Haydee Yorac, William's UP law professor then, also wrote for "Sick"?

I still have copies of the second and third "Sick" issues. I'm looking for the first issue because that was where, I think, the languorous "The Autumn of the Patriarch" came out. It was a take-off from Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novel about an ailing despot whose regime and body were slowly being corrupted.

No one knew if an issue would be the last so it had, near the masthead, "Volume One, Only One."

SUCH a private man was he that no one will ever truly know whether he died of a broken heart due to politics, as Inocencio Marcos suspects, or from an overdose of thrill and joy in watching Manny Pacquiao's victory which, I think, was more the likely cause. One thing is certain though: his death—so sudden, though a merciful way to go for so proud and strong a man—has shaken the political landscape. He was the sun around which show business revolved for two generations; he was, too, the lodestar of a political opposition that never quite knew what to do with him. Fernando Poe Jr. is gone, and his loyal fans and his political allies—the true and the fair-weather ones—are in darkness.

I never met FPJ, but I have met his wife, of whom it must be said there are few women in the Philippines or anywhere who can match her charm, grace, dignity and class. It was—by her that much of her husband's character could be measured. If he was the personification of so much that Filipino men want to be, she is everything a Filipino man would want in a wife: a loyal, tactful, loving, protective and strong spouse. FPJ, by all accounts, was a demanding man, requiring discipline and professionalism in work, and expecting respect both for himself, his wife, his fellow workers, friends and fans. The quiet strengths of his character was matched by hers, and it is to her and her sense of what her husband wanted—and what he posthumously deserves—that so many are turning to at this time. It is no exaggeration to say that as she comes to term with private grief, so must she grapple with the political consequences of his passing.

In an editorial, Today newspaper observed that the grief of Poe's fans will be made desperate, even dangerous, by a feeling of guilt for allowing their idol to lose the May 2004 election. There is much truth in this. At the time of his candidacy, I pointed out that FPJ's candidacy represented a popular yearning for leadership in a traditional mold, one which aspired for a kind of telepathic

Possession of chainsaws should be regulated

IN THE WAKE of the environmental disaster in Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija, President Macapagal-Arroyo likened illegal logging to a heinous crime and, immediately suspended commercial logging indefinitely. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel announced he would file a bill prescribing a total log ban for 25 years. A congressional committee just approved a total log ban.

However, these laudable measures would not be successful if the chainsaw—that simple but awesome machine that efficiently denuded our mountains these past

years—will not be criminalized.

The chainsaw is really a deadly weapon. Deadlier than a machine gun. Unlike a handgun, a chainsaw doesn't have to be registered and licensed in order to be legally possessed and carried. I bet that in Quezon Province alone, there are at least half a dozen chainsaws for every barangay. I am from Quezon.

The chainsaw must be criminalized. It is imperative that the President issue immediately an executive order regulating the possession of chainsaws and that Congress, as soon as possible, enact

a law making the unlawful possession of a chainsaw punishable.

The mere possession of a chainsaw should be prima facie evidence of illegal logging, which now should be made a heinous crime, as properly suggested by the President. This is one rare occasion wherein the President is assured of clear support from the public. Environment Secretary Mike Defensor and anti-logging czar Victor Corpus should resign if they do not agree with President Arroyo.

—NELSON D. LAVINA,
nlavina@lycos.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail

readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PRC must remain regulatory body for medical practice

EVERYBODY knows that the medical profession in the Philippines is in serious peril of losing its doctors with more and more of them going to the United States, United Kingdom and other countries to work as nurses. If this trend continues, the planned universal PhilHealth coverage of all Filipinos will certainly be derailed before it can take off.

Aggravating this situation is the excessive politicking and jockeying for national positions in the country's largest private medical organization. Instead of spending time and resources to promote personal agenda, its leaders should work for higher salaries and other incentives like health insurance for doctors in both private and public hospitals. They should lobby for bigger benefits and incentives so that our physicians will no longer aspire to go abroad to

look for greener pastures and instead opt to render medical service in far-flung areas in the country.

Politics in this medical association is a real problem that must be solved. Members whom they consider as threats to its leadership are stricken off the membership roll and voters' list of the organization without due process even if they are life-time members. Those who do not agree with the leaders' political agenda are denied a certificate of good standing and, as a result, find difficulty in obtaining PhilHealth accreditation for themselves and their patients, thus delaying and hampering the delivery of medical services.

The Department of Health should act to prevent these abuses and virtual blackmail of doctors by those controlling this medical association in the country. A bill in Congress seeks to make this pri-

vate organization the regulatory body for medical practitioners in the Philippines. The bill should not be passed. The Professional Regulation Commission should retain its power to regulate medical practice in our country. Giving power to this unscrupulous, corrupt private body will be disastrous to Filipino medical practitioners.

It's about time that the health secretary, the PRC commissioner and the directors of other concerned government agencies step in, look into and act on the abusive behavior of these selfish medical politicians whose behavior only stimulates further swelling of the exodus of Filipino medical professionals to foreign lands.

—JAIWE M. DURAN, M.D.,
PRC License No. 43214,
vice president,
Rizal Medical Society Inc.,
jimmy_duran@lycos.com

Starvation knows no law

HOW can the government agencies be more efficient and responsive when the real workhorses—the seasoned casual and contractual employees—are being terminated in the name of austerity? Moreover, laying them off runs counter to President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point agenda, specifically on job generation.

The dismissal of these employees, many of whom carry with them unstained records of loyal public service covering 10-15 consecutive years, is an act of heartlessness, cruelty and injustice.

For the families of these affected loyal and dedicated employees—like those of the Department of Public Works and Highways who are reportedly scheduled to be given their walking papers by the end of December 2004—it will mean financial crisis. And this could lead to a worsening of the country's peace and order situation and pull the popularity of the President and the government further down.

Worst of all, the dismissed casual employees, most of whom are poor, could only be welcome addition to the insurgency movement. This would be so because starvation knows no law, deprivation knows no mercy, acute depression knows no respect. This is not to sow fear, but this scenario is not a remote possibility.

We urge President Arroyo to exercise her heart for the poor government workers

—ROMY V. LOFAMIA,
L-18 B-65,
Haring Constantino St.,
Barangay Greater Lagro,
Novaliches, Quezon City

No chemical poisoning

THIS is in reaction to the article, "The chronicle of Wilkie's slow death," (PDI, 12/8/04) on the late Wilkie Duran Monte, a former employee of Lazi Bay Resources Development Inc. (LBRDI) at Lazi, Siquijor.

LBRDI hired Monte on May 20, 1996 as a laborer, among the first 20 employees who were assigned at the improvised batching plant. On May 25, 1998, Monte was transferred to a drilling-and-blasting job as an equipment operator. Some time in 1998, Monte started to get sick. In January 2000, he was confined at the Siquijor Provincial Hospital and later brought to the Silliman University Medical Center (SUMC) in Dumaguete City.

The medical reports of Dr. Franco L. Arcamo, municipal health officer of Siquijor, and Dr. Shireen U. Teves, dermatologist at SUMC, on the cause of Monte's death disprove the claim that he died of chemical poisoning.

After medical examinations at the Siquijor hospital and SUMC, Monte was diagnosed with Hansen's disease or leprosy. Chemical poisoning was never mentioned in his medical records. The other workers who were with Monte during the construction stage, aside from LBRDI's first 20, are still alive and do not have any complaint about chemical poisoning.

LBRDI is a legitimate business entity with a duly approved Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), issued by two environment secretaries, and a BOI registration.

We are convinced that the ultimate goal of Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 is to institutionalize a culture of safety that is characterized by a well-informed workforce, and to encourage the mining industry to continually upgrade its safety standards, committed to achieving a zero-accident industry.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau supports the continuing effort to promote the industry's level of understanding and awareness of the issues, needs and concerns of local communities. We subscribe to the belief that community issues are best expressed by the concerned communities themselves.

MGB in Region 7 has been monitoring LBRDI's compliance with existing mining requirements, particularly on safety, health and environment protection. When potentially upsetting activities are observed, the company is asked to institute corrective or rehabilitative measures.

MGB is committed to the development of mineral resources in a transparent and sustainable manner, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations, industry guidelines and corporate responsibility. It is committed to the highest technical standards, management systems and practices. We will not hesitate to crack the whip where principles and policies of responsible mining are breached.

—ROGER A. DE DIOS,
officer in charge,
Mines and Geosciences Bureau,
Regional Office 7,
Banilad, Mandaue City

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Florencio G. Solmiron

RESIDENTS of Sitio Tignoan in Real, Quezon look out a window as reports of survivors being found in a collapsed building in their town circulate. The town was one of the hardest hit by Typhoon "Winnie" which also uncovered the massive destruction of forests in the Sierra Madre ranges. Residents blamed logging for the disaster.



REN ZAMORA

The many faces of calamity

Losing a daughter
By Marlon Ramos
Real, Quezon

AS FAR as Malou Bautista could recall, the water current coming from the hill and the creek beside their house was unusually strong that night, when tragedy struck their small coastal village of Sitio Colangco in Barangay Tignoan, Real, Quezon.

The murky water and mud had found their way to houses in the community.

At about 7:30 p.m., Nov. 29, Tropical Depression "Winnie" was wrecking havoc on Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns in Quezon. The continuous heavy downpour had also caused rough seas and big waves in the Pacific Ocean in front of the neighborhood.

Moments later, Bautista, who was four months pregnant, said she heard her aunt telling them to immediately seek refuge at the one-story Repador building, which used to house a hardware store and a restaurant.

"Everybody knew that that building was the safest place where we could stay," she said. Or so they thought.

More than 100 people had already flocked to the place.

Bautista and her husband decided to go back to their house to get provisions as they expected to stay at the building for the next few days. She left her 5-year-old daughter, Genesis, to her mother. That was the last time she saw her alive.

Soon, the couple heard a deafening, thunderous roar that lasted about five minutes.

From outside their house, they saw thick mud blocking the road leading to the building. The wet earth "looked like a hill," said Bautista, leader of a local fisherfolk organization.

She said she saw her cousin Jeffrey running back to their house and yelling to them something they could not understand.

Suddenly, mud flowing down the hill swallowed Jeffrey. He was later rescued by residents who pulled him out of the mud. Bautista said they sought refuge for the night in the concrete house of a neighbor.

The morning after, she and the other survivors were stunned at what they saw: the building where most of the residents ran to collapsed from mud flows and moved a few meters away.

Mud also covered a 50-meter stretch of the national highway.

Looking for whatever was left in the area Bautista found the lifeless body of her daughter trapped in the mud. The body bore several holes, she said.

Selfless rescue
By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

WHEN a medical team from the Camp Nakar Station Hospital based in Lucena City was sent to calamity-stricken areas in northern Quezon the morning after flash floods and landslides struck, it expected that their work would be no different from any other disaster mission in the past.

The members even planned a picnic on the beach after treating the last patient.

"We were all stunned. What we saw from the helicopter was a disaster of unprecedented magnitude. I told my staff to brace themselves for the enormous task ahead of us," said Lt. Col. Jocelyn Pancrudo-Turila, a medical doctor and leader of the team of 17 volunteers, including six women doctors, nurses and aides.

There was the first medical team to reach the heavily devastated area.

Along with Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, head of the Southern Luzon Unified Command, the team was immediately airlifted from Camp Nakar to the bank of the Agus River in Barangay Banagao, Infanta, on Tuesday morning.

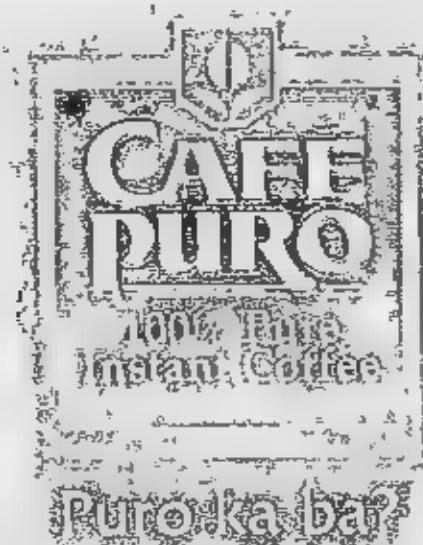
Immediately, the team trekked toward General Nakar town, passing through roads littered with huge logs and carpeted with knee-deep mud in search of a place to be used as an emergency medical station.

They found the proposed town hall building, then under construction, in Barangay Anuling. The soldiers swiftly converted the place into an emergency hospital to accommodate the rush of patients, mostly injured by the floods and landslides. Piles of plywood became 10 makeshift beds.

For the next week, Turila's medical corps treated the victims of Tropical Depression "Winnie" and Typhoon "Violeta."

Sick and injured patients from nearby Infanta hiked for at least 10 km to reach the medical station.

Painit ang diwa ng Pasko sa sarap ng giniting net kape.



Traders say Subic becoming a 'garrison'

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Several investors here assailed officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority for allegedly turning the freeport into a "restricted port and a garrison state" when they recently suspended the issuance of import permits here.

Some investors also stopped their business operations while others threatened to close shop as a result of the suspension.

An investor said several locators would urge SBMA officials to specify their policy direction. "This is already a restricted port, a garrison state and a militarized area," he said.

"They (SBMA officials) don't know what a freeport is. There should be free flow of movement of goods but they have already made restrictions everywhere," he added.

The suspension order, according to locators, has also caused the non-payment of workers' wages.

Locators involved in trade and manufacturing expressed dismay over what they called "unconstitutional" hold order. "We have repeatedly sought the approval of our import permit applications to bring new shipments from our suppliers abroad and keep our businesses, but the new SBMA management has yet to respond to our appeal," a locator told the INQUIRER.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the locators said a recent dialogue between some of the affected locators and SBMA officials led by SBMA Administrator Alfredo Antonio "had not resulted in anything positive."

"All they could say was that they were under orders from Malacañang to issue the hold order,"

which was a blanket directive affecting all imported goods that would eventually end up in the local market," the statement said.

Antonio has yet to issue any explanation on the suspension of import permits.

"SBMA officials should know better. The regional trial court in Olongapo City had already declared as unconstitutional a Malacañang directive banning the importation of used motor vehicles into Subic," an investor said.

The new suspension order, according to the investor, is contrary to Republic Act 7227, which created the Subic Bay Freeport.

"(The contracts) specifically said that (locators) could import and export goods from the freeport," the investors said.

"The SBMA should rethink their stand on the hold order on import permits and gate passes as this would only put off any future investments," the statement said.

The investors said Lt. Gen. Jose Calimim, senior deputy for administrator and chief of the intelligence and investigation office of the SBMA, recently ordered the cancellation of gate passes to all locators, including manufacturers.

The move has resulted in a row between Calimim and Wistron Infocom, one of the largest locators in Subic.

Wistron officials declined to comment further on the issue when contacted by the INQUIRER.

Calimim, speaking through Alex Avian, Freeport Services Corp. director, said he had nothing to do with the issue. Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk



GIANT 'SISIG'

Workers do their tasks on an oversized pan containing the ingredients for what was touted to be the country's biggest sisig, or a dish made of pork cheeks and spices and is one of the dishes Pampanga became famous for.

Soldiers end search for bodies in collapsed building

CALAMBA CITY—Two days after miner-rescuers left the area, the head of the military unit in charge of the search and retrieval operations in the building that collapsed in Barangay Tignoan, Real, Quezon said they had already terminated the search for bodies believed to have been buried under the rubble since Monday.

Col. Jaime Buenaflor, head of the Philippine Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, said they decided to stop digging and drilling in the site of the Repador Building after assessing that all possible sites where bodies could be found had been searched but to no avail.

Buenaflor said they likewise wanted to give the rescuers and soldiers a chance to rest.

As early as Saturday, he said they had already given up hope that survivors could still be rescued from the rubble.

Buenaflor said this was the reason the last batch of miners from Benguet left the site on Sunday afternoon.

He said that since they started their no let-up retrieval operations on Dec. 3, they had already recovered 79 bodies, including four persons who miraculously survived the 10-day ordeal under the debris.

Most of the bodies had already been buried in the municipal

cemetery while others were temporarily buried at an open ground near the former site of the building, he said.

Buenaflor said most of the bodies had already been identified.

He said intermittent rains in the area had slowed down their operations in the past few days.

"We have already spoken with the local executives of Real, including the mayor and the barangay captain. We have likewise talked with relatives of the victims. They all agreed to the cessation of the operations," he told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

Buenaflor however, said they would continue to dig at the site if the residents would request them to do so.

He said he had received reports that there were still 10 missing persons who have yet to be accounted for.

Since Saturday, the national road connecting Real and Infanta towns had already been cleared and was opened to light vehicles.

Buenaflor said the military engineering brigade and the Department of Public Works and Highways had constructed a detour at the Kinabalan Bridge, which connects the two typhoon-ravaged towns. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cops seize lumber in 2 trucks from Quezon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Police seized lumber loaded in two trucks that were intercepted at a checkpoint here.

The trucks came from Quezon, police said.

Palawan has imposed a total ban on logging since the enactment of the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan in 1992 but authorities continue to report seizing illegally cut lumber.

Some of the policemen who seized the lumber said banned species of ipil trees were asserted between *falcata* and *malugay* wood.

Documents presented by the truck drivers showed a permit to transport only *falcata*.

The pieces of lumber were allegedly owned by a certain Welto Legarda.

Some inmates of the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm were caught in the act of cutting old-growth acacia trees inside a civil reservation area in Barangay Iwahig.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn was enraged after learning that the cutting happened in an area reserved for people who do not have land.

Employees of the penal farm and inmates who have served their sentence are given preference to stay on the land.



THE EFFECTS of ecological destruction were very evident in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya where even farm animals, like this goat, were not spared by nature's wrath.

"Heads will roll if we find out who were behind the cutting of these acacia trees," the mayor said amid allegations that the inmates acted upon the order of some top prison officials.

Presidential Decree 718 declared the 916-hectare land as a resettlement area. Jofelle Tesoro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

officials.

Judge Econg yesterday found out that Ecleo's address at Porrett Hills, Banaue, Cebu City was indicated in the release order previously issued by RTC Judge Generosa Labra.

The discovery prompted Econg to order Ecleo to stay at his indicated address. She also ordered the defense to notify the court whenever Ecleo has to go to Manila for a medical check-up.

After two months of delay, the

Communist rebels launch new attacks on construction firms in 2 provinces

COMMUNIST rebels continued their attacks on construction firms, razing one in Capiz and blowing up the firm's crane and another in Surigao del Sur, burning the firm's equipment.

In Capiz, some 30 men believed to be New People's Army (NPA) rebels entered the compound of the International Builders Corp. (IBC) in Barangay Codingle, around 2 km from Dumarao town.

They exploded a bomb to destroy the firm's crane.

There were no reported casualties, said Senior Supt. Norlito Bautista, Capiz police director. The crane was worth P500,000.

Another bomb placed under a 10-wheel dump truck, which was five meters from the crane, failed to explode and was defused by policemen. The 4.5-kilo bomb was similar to the one recovered in San Remigio town in Antique in September after NPA rebels ambushed a

team of policemen and soldiers.

Bautista said residents of the village and employees of the construction firm noticed the armed men only as they withdrew after the explosion. The residents and employees staying in a bunkhouse at first thought that firecrackers caused the explosion.

Bautista said the rebels were trying to collect taxes from the construction firm but the firm denied getting any demand for taxes.

In Surigao del Sur, rebels attacked the compound of the CBBi Construction in Bislig.

Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said the rebels torched several heavy equipment owned by CBBi which was building a project in Barangay Maharlika.

"The NPA in our area of operation resorts to arson if only to

pressure the construction firms to give revolutionary taxes," Bagasin said.

Maria Malaya, NPA spokesperson for Northern Mindanao, said they were punishing Arturo Ongko, owner of CBBi, for his failure to fulfill his obligations to the "revolutionary government in the area."

Malaya said because it was only the businessman who owed them, the rebels did not harm the civilians guarding the equipment at the time of the attack.

Malaya said the rebels destroyed the heavy equipment by setting off land mines.

The rebel spokesperson said the attack should serve as warning to other contractors in the area to not forget their obligations to the "revolutionary government." Nestor Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tacloban execs, workers to get extra bonuses

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—It will be a merry Christmas for the more than 1,000 employees of the city government here.

Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. agreed to give the employees an additional bonus ranging from P4,000 to P15,000, on top of the regular bonuses that the city government employees received last month.

Regal Oliva, the mayor's execu-

tive secretary, said the extra bonus would be given to the employees on Dec. 21.

"This additional bonus for the employees of the city government would be a big help considering our tight economic situation," Oliva said.

Oliva said regular employees of the city government, including Mayor Romualdez and the other elected officials and department heads, would each receive P15,000. Casual employees would each get P8,000 while those cate-

gorized as emergency workers would each receive P4,000.

City budget officer Heraclea Segovia said the city government earmarked P16 million taken from its savings for this year for the additional bonus.

The giving of additional bonus to city workers was based on Memorandum Circular Number 2004-45 issued by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) dated Dec. 9 allowing LGUs to give additional bonuses if there are available funds.

Judge bans foreign travel for Ecleo as parricide trial starts

By Yolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A Cebu Regional Trial Court judge yesterday issued a hold departure order against controversial cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.

Judge Geraldine Econg yesterday directed Ecleo to refrain from traveling abroad and restrict himself to Cebu or the court would revoke his bail bond and issue a

warrant of arrest for him.

Econg issued the order despite the manifestation of Orlando Salantandrea, Ecleo's defense counsel, that his client had already surrendered his passport to the court that granted his request to post a P1 million bail for provisional liberty.

Salantandrea said his client would need to stay longer in Manila for his periodic heart tests.

Judge Econg yesterday found out that Ecleo's address at Porrett Hills, Banaue, Cebu City was indicated in the release order previously issued by RTC Judge Generosa Labra.

The discovery prompted Econg to order Ecleo to stay at his indicated address. She also ordered the defense to notify the court whenever Ecleo has to go to Manila for a medical check-up.

After two months of delay, the

parricide case against the controversial cult leader was heard yesterday after it was raffled to Econg, the sixth judge who handled the case.

Ecleo, supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, stands accused of killing his wife, Alona Bacood-Ecleo, 27, on Jan. 5, 2002.

Her decomposing body was found inside a garbage bag in a ravine along the roadside of

Barangay Coro, Delaguate, about 85 km south of his city. Autopsy report showed that Alona died of strangulation.

Ecleo yesterday told reporters that he welcomed that court's decision. He said he was also grateful to Econg for granting his request to spend the holiday season with his children who are all on Dinagat Island, the base of the PBMA, in Surigao del Norte.

Ecleo was accompanied at the

start of the hearing by his mother, Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo.

Econg denied Salantandrea's motion to defer court proceedings pending the resolution of their request to transfer the venue of the trial to Manila.

The court did not rule on the matter since the Office of the Court Administrator has yet to evaluate the request to the Supreme Court.

Split work sked staggers on Day 1

By Margaux C. Ortiz

DESPITE "expected kinks" on its first day of implementation yesterday, the Staggered Working Time (SWT) scheme eased traffic in the metropolis, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

"We would say that there was less road congestion yesterday morning," MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said in a phone interview.

He added that based on the reports of their traffic enforcers on EDSA, the tail end of vehicles on the southbound lane reached only as far as Kamuning flyover instead of Quezon Avenue.

But he stressed that they are giving the scheme a few more

days before announcing an official assessment.

The MMDA official said many government offices failed to receive Memorandum Circular No. 81, signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, on Tuesday.

The circular mandated the executive department and its bureaus and offices, including government-owned and controlled corporations, to hold office from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. instead of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lacking the effect of a law, the circular could only "strongly urge" officials and employees of the legislative and judicial branches and local government units to adopt the scheme.

At the same time, MC 81 could only "strongly encourage" the

private sector to hold office from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The schedule, which splits the office hours in public and private offices, is aimed at having workers occupy roads at different times.

The MMDA general manager said the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council, with representatives from groups like the Federation of Free Workers, Alliance of Progressive Labor and the Employees Confederation of Philippines, had assured the agency that they would disseminate the scheme to its members.

"The tripartite (council) representatives said that in their experience, their members readily follow any new resolution or policy which the group formulates," Nacianceno said.

As for LGUs, Nacianceno said almost all Metro Manila mayors agreed to implement the scheme when they were informed by the MMDA last week. He added that only Makati City was not able to reply when sought for their approval and comment on the SWT.

Makati Information and Community Relations Department chief Jose Salgado said they would study the scheme's feasibility in the city.

Salgado explained that over 90 percent of Makati's employees live in the city and would not really affect traffic because they either walk or ride bicycles to work.

In Manila, the effect of the split working hours was hardly noticed but officials attributed these to several other factors.

Western Police District traffic Chief Supt. Cesar Javier blamed the usual heavy congestion along España to a badly done asphalt overlay near the railroad tracks in Sampaloc.

Javier said a bump formed on a newly asphalted portion of the road was slowing down traffic.

According to him, the bump used to be a pothole that he requested filled but too much asphalt was poured over the pothole and a bump was created.

Javier added that the number of shoppers who had been flocking to Divisoria also contributed to the traffic congestion.

Divisoria, in Binondo and Tondo, is a popular destination in Manila for bargain hunters.

For her part, Manila Regional

Trial Court Clerk of Court Jennifer dela Cruz-Buendia said force of habit was going against the staggered work scheme.

Some employees came late, while others continued working well into 5 p.m., the usual end of office hours.

"We are still adjusting right now," Buendia said.

The court, as directed by the Supreme Court, began implementing the staggered work schedule yesterday.

The Manila City government would begin implementing the scheme today, as the City Personnel Office had to spread the word first on the SWT among Manila's roughly 8,500 employees. With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Terra V. Quismundo

Slain lawman was a real life hero to family

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A BROTHER of the policeman slain in a shootout with suspected robbers in Valenzuela City waited for the media briefing to be over.

And after most cameramen and photographers had left, he rushed to the 12 arrested suspects and threw punches.

"Puuuung ninyo. Mga langhiya kayo," Cayetano Zabala, 40, yelled, tears of rage falling down his eyes.

Policemen at the Our Lady of Fatima Hospital conference room, where police officials held the briefing yesterday, were surprised.

They managed to pacify Zabala only after all the suspects were lying on the floor.

Zabala's younger brother, PO2 Victor Zabala, was killed after suspected robbers opened fire at their patrol car on Paso De Blas Road in Valenzuela City on Tuesday morning.

The encounter also left three suspects and two civilians dead.

First to respond

Victor was among the first policemen to go after the suspects, who had just robbed a Banco De Oro branch on Mac Arthur Highway.

The lawmen caught up with the suspects on board two white vans near the Maunsa Exit. But the suspects, armed with rifles, beat them to the draw, killing Zabala on the spot.

Twelve suspects were arrested the other day. Yesterday, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group reported the arrest of two more suspects.

They were arrested in follow-up operations in the group's alleged hideouts in Caloocan City and Malabon City.

Zabala used to work as desk officer at the office of the Valenzuela City police chief. He had just been transferred to the mobile patrol group.

Before his death, Zabala was planning to seek transfer to Bicol so he could be with his mother, Cayetano said.

Their father had just died three weeks ago. On Dec. 4, an uncle also died.

The family yesterday flew Zabala's remains to Bicol, police chief Billy Beltran said.

Zabala is the 13th child in their family of 14 children. He was 36 years old.

Helping nephew

"Pangarap niya na pag-aralin 'yung pangany ko sa pagkapulis. Kaya lang, hanggang doon na lang siguro ang buhay niya," Cayetano said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo talked to Cayetano the other afternoon, hours after Zabala was killed.

The President also gave the family P100,000 in financial assistance.

Though still grieving, Cayetano said their only consolation was that the police managed to arrest his brother's alleged killers.

City police chief Billy Beltran and CIDG-NCR chief Federico Lacerda Jr. were also given Medalya Ng Kagitingan awards.

Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian also promised financial support to the victims. He will also give awards to the city police.

Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said the suspects were part of a big syndicate responsible for at least 12 robberies in Metro Manila.

Cosmonaut health monitor

DOCTOR Sonny Vitoria, who has had extensive training in natural medicine, is holding consultations on Automatic Reflective Diagnostic Kinetic (ARDK) every day until Saturday, Dec. 18.

Developed and designed by a group of Russian and Taiwanese scientists, the all-dimensional ARDK is a consolidation of 40 years of research studies. It is being used by cosmonauts to monitor their health while in space.

For a free consultation, call 448-7625 or 736-0844. Location: 2nd floor of EDS Building, Lungsod Quezon City. Inquiries may be made by calling tel. nos. 448-7625 and 736-0844.



DNIe™
Digital Natural Image engine

A touching innovation in picture
Image Optimizer

A vivid picture with high definition
Six-times density enhancer

eliminate noise
Motion Optimizer

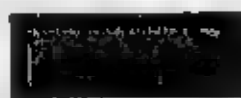
boost light and shade
Contrast Enhancer

show natural hues
Color Optimizer

sharpen the edges
Detail Enhancer

The Most Refined Design DLP TV

- The best lens brings the best image quality. Carl Zeiss, the world leader in optics and Samsung collaborated and created the most reliable and precise color expression available anywhere.
- This is the DLP™ TV known as the thinnest and lightest product in the world (20% thinner than our existing model on the basis of 50").



Best innovation award
2004



IDEA design award
silver winner 2004



European video award
2004-2005

Now, enjoy brilliant picture, ultimate sound, and contemporary design with the new Samsung DLP TV.



Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation, Ground Floor, Bonifacio Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, Pasig City, Metro Manila 1105
Tel. No. 722-7777 • Fax No. 722-8388 • For Customer Contact Center: dial 1-448-7625 • SAMSUNG

Register and Win

Register any SAMSUNG Product purchased from any authorized dealer or distributor before December 31, 2004. For details, visit www.samsung.com.ph or call 1-448-7625.

II SUERTRES FOUR DIGIT
24 19 5 6 3 9 8 3 3
 (In exact order)

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 263 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO
 Editor Ester G. Dipasupil Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

MEGALOTTO 6/45

SWEEPSTAKES

19 22 25 35 41 3 7 2 4 1 2 G

Manila hands out livelihood funding

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TEN DAYS before Christmas, hundreds of Manilans received a gift from the Manila City government, something out of which they would hopefully make more.

City Hall yesterday distributed capital loans to more than 400 housewives, self-employed and small business entrepreneurs of Manila, as part of Manila's continuous capital assistance program.

"I hope you use this to earn more, and double this again and again," said Mayor Lito Atienza, speaking to beneficiaries yesterday morning at City Hall's Antonio Villegas Hall.

Zero interest

Residents from the city's six districts received their loan grants ranging from P1,000 to P4,000, payable in ten weeks with no interest or collateral. Among the recipients were women who kept small food stalls and maintained businesses at home, for instance making tocino and repacking food stuff.

"Filipinos are known for their industry. That's why I believe that government should help the people earn more to move the economy," Atienza said, before distributing envelopes to his constituents.

The city's capital assistance program provides aid to at least 3,000 Manilans every year, with an annual allocation of P5 million. Yesterday, the city released P942,000 to the new batch of beneficiaries.

Dalena seeks blood donors

PAINTER Danilo Dalena will undergo spinal cord surgery today and needs type A+ blood.

Those who can donate may contact Kiri Dalena at 0921-3788812 or go direct to Room 333 of St. Luke's Hospital. If not, just please spread the word.

FPJ would have chosen death

RABID fans of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. went overboard when they burned the funeral wreath sent by President Macapaga-Arroyo.

You can't blame the fans because they are illiterate, and uneducated people most often become irrational when they are emotional.

But where were FPJ's grieving relatives when the fans became a mob and burned the wreath?

It seems the actor's relatives are under the control of his fans. Otherwise, the perception is that what the fans did have the tacit approval of FPJ's relatives.

Some opposition politicians are probably behind the rabble-rousing at the Sto. Domingo Church that resulted in the wreath-burning.

These politicians are now exploiting the situation to suit their ends.

They are like vultures capitalizing on a dead man to blot their ego.

FPJ died in the morning of Monday, Dec. 13, but St. Luke's Hospital announced his death in the first hour of Tuesday.

The hospital management probably did not make the announcement immediately for fear trouble might erupt at the hospital from FPJ fans. The hospital waited for early Tuesday morning after the crowd holding vigil had thinned down.

'Nobody wanted to help me'

By Edison C. Tandoc Jr.

SHE LOST hope that she would get her only daughter back. And yesterday morning, a 39-year-old mother tried to kill herself by jumping from a vacant billboard on top of the Metro Rail Transit Quezon Avenue Station in Quezon City.

She stayed on top, crying as she held onto a doll.

But after four hours of sending policemen, rescuers and bystanders to panic, Precy Libatique Delos Santos, 39, voluntarily stepped down the billboard after police officials assured her they would help her find her 9-year-old daughter.

In the afternoon, she got the only thing she wanted: she was reunited with her daughter.

Delos Santos went up the billboard at about 4 a.m. yesterday, PO1 Rustico Reyes Jr. told the INQUIRER. Policemen, rescue teams and members of the media quickly responded to the area.

Threat to jump

But she refused to get down, threatening to jump.

She yelled at cameramen and photographers, telling them to go away.

The woman was despondent that her former lover took their daughter from her on Saturday.

Kamuning Police Station chief Edgardo Pamitan tried convincing her to get down. She refused

several times. But after Pamitan promised to help her find her daughter, Delos Santos climbed down.

City social welfare and development volunteer Lilia Montenegro told the INQUIRER Delos Santos was "emotionally depressed." The mother was tired of looking for her child and had not eaten for four days.

Delos Santos, who lives in Quezon Province, told the INQUIRER later she and her daughter arrived in Metro Manila on Saturday because the child's father, a Sudanese, wanted to see the girl.

They met in a mall in Muntinlupa. But the father never gave her daughter back.

Met with laughter

"Sinuyod ko ang Pampanga. Lumapit ako sa mga pulis. Pinaglawanan lang nila ako (I searched Pampanga. I sought help from the police. They only laughed at me)," she said in between sobs.

She said she went to police headquarters in Camp Crame and the National Bureau of Investigation but because she could not give the exact address of her former lover, they did not help her.

"Lumapit din ako sa GMA 7 at ABS-CBN 2. Hindi ako pinansin (I sought the help of GMA 7 and ABS-CBN 2 but they ignored me)," Delos Santos added.

In the afternoon, Montenegro and the police were able to track



DESPONDENT, Precy Delos Santos wards off police and rescuers with a knife. She earlier sought help from the police and media but she claimed she was ignored.

PAT ROQUE

down the woman's partner.

The father told Montenegro he took away their daughter because Delos Santos' husband had sexually abused the child twice.

The father, who lives in Pampanga, promised to bring their

daughter to the police station.

"Inaanin ko may hindi magandang nangyari sa anak ko. Pero hindi ko iyan kagustuhan. Kaya nga pinakulong ko kaagad ang asawa ko (I admit that something bad happened to my daughter

but I did not like it either. That was why I immediately had my husband sent to jail)," Delos Santos said.

The mother said she did everything to give her daughter a good life. Although they were poor, she said she did everything to always buy her daughter new pairs of shoes, clothes and watches.

She said she had been saving for her daughter's 10th birthday in January 2005.

"Bumibili na ako kahit pa-isang kilong spaghetti (I have started buying spaghetti)," she also said.

Networks comment

Sought for comment about the claims of Delos Santos that she was turned her away when she sought their help, broadcast networks GMA 7 and ABS-CBN said they were looking into the woman's statements.

"We are still checking the veracity of the alleged victim's claim," said a statement issued by the ABS-CBN Corporate Public Relations Department.

For his part, Jayce Perlas, GMA Network program publicity head, said, "As of the moment, we are confirming if indeed Precy approached us."

Perlas added, "We extend help whenever we can. The network has various public service arms which provide different levels of assistance subject to resources at hand."

Off-duty lawman kills rob suspect NBI gives tips to prospective OFWs

By Leila B. Salaverria

QUEZON City policeman PO2 Anthony Pamilar was off duty and out of his area of responsibility when he heard a businesswoman shout for help after she was robbed in Manila early yesterday morning.

The situation did not prevent Pamilar from coming to the aid of Leonila Canejo. He went out of his house and shouted at the three suspects to stop, telling them that he is a

policeman.

However, one of the suspects opened fire at him before the group ran off.

Pamilar followed, trading shots with the suspects before hitting and killing one of them. The two others escaped.

The slain suspect, who had four gunshot wounds, remained unidentified at press time.

Police said the fatality was around 30 to 40 years old, 5'7 to 5'8 tall and had short hair.

By Leila B. Salaverria

WITH thousands of Filipinos raring to work abroad to provide better lives to their families, illegal recruitment is an ever present threat.

But those dreaming to seek greener pastures abroad need not become sitting ducks to unscrupulous and dis-

honest recruiters who take their money and promise them jobs abroad that, however, fail to materialize.

The National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Human Trafficking Division, one of the busiest offices at the bureau, has provided tips on how people could avoid being duped of their money and having their dreams

of working overseas dashed.

A key point is that prospective overseas workers must check if the agency they would be dealing with has been licensed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency.

Applicants must refrain from dealing with licensed agencies that have no job orders.

Spread the holiday cheer with Prestigio's Christmas stylePack..

For Only 37,500.00

- Embedded VIA 1.2GHz Processor
- 128MB DDR
- 30 GB HDD
- S3 Graphics ProSavage8, AGP 2.0 compliant and AGP 4X support, 128-bit 2D graphics engine.
- 14.1" XGA TFT (1024 X 768)
- 10/100Mbps Ethernet
- CardBus, PCMCIA Type II slot
- Lithium Ion Battery approx. 2-2.5 hrs.
- 2.8 kg.

For Only 49,500.00

- Embedded VIA 1GHz Processor
- 128 DDR
- 20GB HDD
- 14.1" XGA TFT (1024 x 768) LCD rotates to convert from notebook to tablet mode
- AGP 2.0 compliant and AGP 4X support
- External USB CD/DVD Combo Drive optional
- 10/100Mbps Ethernet
- CardBus, PCMCIA Type II slot
- Smart Lithium Ion approx. 2-2.5 hrs.
- 2.8 kg.

Get FREE

Prestigio External Portable Drive Enclosure & Prestigio Retractable mouse for every purchase starting Dec. 1 to Dec. 31, 2004

So, Hurry avail our special Christmas offering now!

Other Prestigio Models

- Intel Pentium® M Processor 1.5GHz**
256 MB RAM
40 GB HDD
2" XGA TFT
Built-in DVD + COMBO Drive
- Mobile VIA C7™ 1GHz**
Optional 256MB SDRAM
30 GB HDD
12.1" XGA TFT
External USB CDROM
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.4GHz**
256MB RAM
40GB HDD
15" XGA TFT
Built-in DVD + COMBO Drive
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 1.2GHz**
256MB DDR RAM
40GB HDD
14.1" XGA TFT
Built-in CD/DVD/COMBO Drive

Promo available at the following retail outlet:

PC CORNER: Glanville 723-2538 PERFECTBYTE 534 Nibela 528-4545 SM Megamall 631-8788 PC OPTION: Glanville 727-3913/726-8866 PC EXPRESS MAIN OFFICE 710-8848

Shaw 726-9699, Cebu 725-4383 Kalayaan 433-6288, Alabang 7722292-29 PC OPT108: 21 Glanville Ave., Aurora Blvd. Quezon City 725-0805 PRODATA COMPUTER/PC CHAIN: Cebu 811-46-18, Cyberzone SM North EDSA 928-49-43/925-22-28, Verano 721-35-85, Scout Ganda St. 884-15-78, WILLMAN COMPUTER West Avenue 373-9872, Cubao 912-2765

Manila-Servat 813-4371, Manila-Pagoda 815-1986, Manila-Ayala 822-2222, Katigum, 433-1224, SM North EDSA 926-7322 WESTERN MARKETING Ltd 384-A/C Gold Tower EDSA AVE., Origas 637-6422

Exclusive Philippine Distributor:

MILLENNIUM
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

Tel No. 363-7777 • E-mail: prestigio@millennium.com.ph • Website: www.millennium.com.ph

Passion



TOYOTA'S FANTASTIC DECEMBER OFFERS

FOR AS LOW AS
P12,290
PER MONTH*

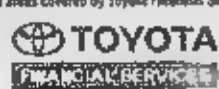
AT ONLY
80K! **
DOWNPAYMENT

In this season of giving, Toyota is giving you the chance to own a
REVO for as low as P12,290 per month* at only 80K downpayment.**
Plus longer payment schemes of up to 72 months!***

REVO FINANCING SCHEMES

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
VX200 2.0 GAS A/T (Leather)	970,000	100,000	74,016	51,016	40,423	29,124	23,763	20,152	18,901
VX200 2.4 DSL M/T (Leather)	958,000	100,000	75,612	52,119	41,267	29,731	24,258	20,587	19,309
SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	67,342	46,416	36,782	26,500	21,622	18,335	17,196
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	62,921	43,370	34,371	24,763	20,205	17,131	16,067
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	90,000	60,215	41,505	32,895	23,699	19,337	16,395	15,376
GL 1.8 GAS M/T	698,000	80,000	51,500	35,349	28,023	20,189	16,473	13,963	13,096
DLX 2.4 DSL M/T	690,000	80,000	53,242	36,698	29,063	20,938	17,084	14,496	13,596
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T (12.07%)	663,000	80,000	48,583	33,173	26,301	18,948	15,460	13,103	12,290
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T (50%)	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	13,856	9,890	8,037	6,776	6,336

For areas covered by Toyota Fleetstar Services



FOR A TOYOTA, GO TO TOYOTA

RAV4 FINANCING SCHEMES

VARIANT	SRP	LOW DP	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
4X4 A/T	1,260,000	100,000	104,437	72,111	57,281	41,065	33,006	28,444	26,678
4X2 S/V M/T	1,149,000	100,000	84,626	58,331	46,401	33,266	27,421	23,741	21,610

Don't miss this great December deal.
Run to your nearest Toyota dealer now.
Promo is up to December 31, 2004 only.

*Revo DLX 1.8 Gas M/T of P80,000 downpayment, 72 months to pay.
**Revo GL 1.8 Gas M/T, Revo DLX 1.8 Gas M/T, Revo DLX 2.4 DSL M/T.
***All participating REVO and RAV4 variants.



TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500

TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 880-8881 to 37 / 882-1981; TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, San Roque Subdivision, Aranda St., Bacolod City 854-444-1811 to 13; TOYOTA BANGAL CITY, Bawakan Road cor. Aguilera St., Bangal City 1074-447-0831 / 874-300-3273 to 74 / 874-300-4128 / 3825 / 874-443-6378; TOYOTA BALMETER, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kapanaganan City 385-9901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 60 / 364-4071 to 75; TOYOTA BAYANLARIAN NORTH, 1018 EDSA De Los Angeles Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 983-7216 / 17 / 38 / 38 / 987-7242 / 44 / 48 / 98 / 987-7257 / 82 / 85 / 987-7268 / 68; TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Division Road, Barangay Grapegles, Batangas City 1043-723-7386 / 1043-723-7639; TOYOTA CAGAYAN CITY, INC., Km. 118 Maharista Highway, Barangay Santa, Cagayan City 604-4163-8481 to 87; TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kawayan Cagayan de Oro City 10822-735-770 / 791 / 845 / 1088 / 858-0994 / 1088 / 858-7770 / 10822-737-480; TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuervo St., Cebu City 6032-253-1181; TOYOTA CEBU HANAUKE, Inc., Marikina City 1032-345-8670; TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave. Quezon City 952-1021 to 27; TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 825 Aurora Blvd. Cubao, Quezon City 91-0651 to 63; TOYOTA DAEPAH CITY, INC., Division Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calapan, Palawan 1075-517-2028 to 28 / 1075-522-6771 / 67341-4773; TOYOTA DASHMARIBAS CAVITE, Salitran II, Aguilera Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite 046-850-2597 / 02-529-8115 (front line); TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 5, Lungsod Davao City 082-234-0998 / 082-234-2994 / 082-234-6549; TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plaza Subd. Jaro, Jaro City 033-320-5115 to 19; TOYOTA MAKATI INC., Ayala cor. Metropolitan Ave., Makati City 857-3333; TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437; TOYOTA MARINA SERVICE STATION, Bay, San Nito, San Roque Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 652-9701 to 03; TOYOTA MTIS, INC., 1770 P. H. Guerrero St., Para. Marikina 654-1811 to 20; TOYOTA PASIG CITY, INC., 2282 Pasig Imap Extension, Marikina City 893-4084; TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 725 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5081 to 06; TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, Chagape-Gapan Road, San Fernando, Pampanga 045-961-1188; TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 205 Shaw Blvd., Marikina City 832-4132 / 532-8428 / 534-3009 (tel./fax); TOYOTA SHAW-DRILLING, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Lungsod, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3149 Series of 2004.



SPORTS

Text us your feedback: inquirer_spt@mail.com or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Buhain: From PSC to GAB

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FROM amateur sports czar to head of the country's pro sports body.

The switch in position was confirmed yesterday by Eric Buhain, who will soon take over as Games and Amusements Board chair after his courtesy resignation as Philippine Sports Commission head was accepted by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The rumors are true. My (new) appointment was transmitted to me by Mala-

cañang Tuesday. It was signed by the President Nov. 26," Buhain said.

Buhain's transfer from the PSC to the GAB was rumored since last month after Ateneo athletic director Junjun Capistrano, a former top official of the SEAG organizing committee that ran the 1991 games in Manila, announced he was available for the top PSC post.

There's a world of difference between both positions.

The PSC chair heads a body that promotes and develop amateur sports, including the funding and training of the

country's top athletes for international competitions. It has a fixed budget from the General Appropriations Act and enjoys additional funding from Pagcor and Malacañang for special projects like stunts in the Olympics, Asian Games and the SEAG.

The GAB deals mainly with supervising pro sports and takes care of issuing licenses to pro cagers, boxers, cyclists, golfers and other professional athletes.

Buhain, who at 31 became the youngest PSC chair when he was appointed in January 2001, said he would stay on at the PSC until his replacement is named

by Malacañang. Buhain said he has unformed GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva about this.

"It is indeed a humbling experience serving for our national athletes and coaches from which I once belong," said Buhain. "And I would like to sincerely thank the President for letting me serve Philippine sports some years after I have been a national athlete and coach."

"I've been at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex since I was 7 years old and I consider it as my second home. I

Buhain/A26

Juico heads roster of possible replacements

WHO'S next in line?

That question was on everybody's lips at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex yesterday following the departure of Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain to take over as head of the Games and Amusements Board.

Buhain, who announced his change of

jobs yesterday, didn't make any recommendation for his replacement at the PSC although he confirmed that the same people floated in the media as his probable successors are on the Palace list.

Sources at the RMSC said that former PSC chair Philip Juico, who served during the term of President Ramos, is the

strongest bet considering that he stayed longest among previous PSC chiefs.

However, history is against Juico's chances because there has never been a "balik-PSC" chair since its creation in 1990.

Also in the list is outgoing POC president Celso Dayrit, who could be given the

PSC post "in exchange" for his withdrawal in the last POC elections.

Other names that cropped up were former commissioner Cynthia Carrion, Ateneo athletic director Junjun Capistrano, Manila Sports Council chair Ali Adenza, Mikee Cojuangco and PSC commissioner Butch Ramirez.

Marc Anthony Reyes

RP XI scores 1st win

KUALA LUMPUR—

Fresh off its historic victory in the Tiger Cup, the Philippines attempts a giant-size upset when it takes on defending champion Thailand in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at 6 p.m. today. The game will be shown live over Star Sports.

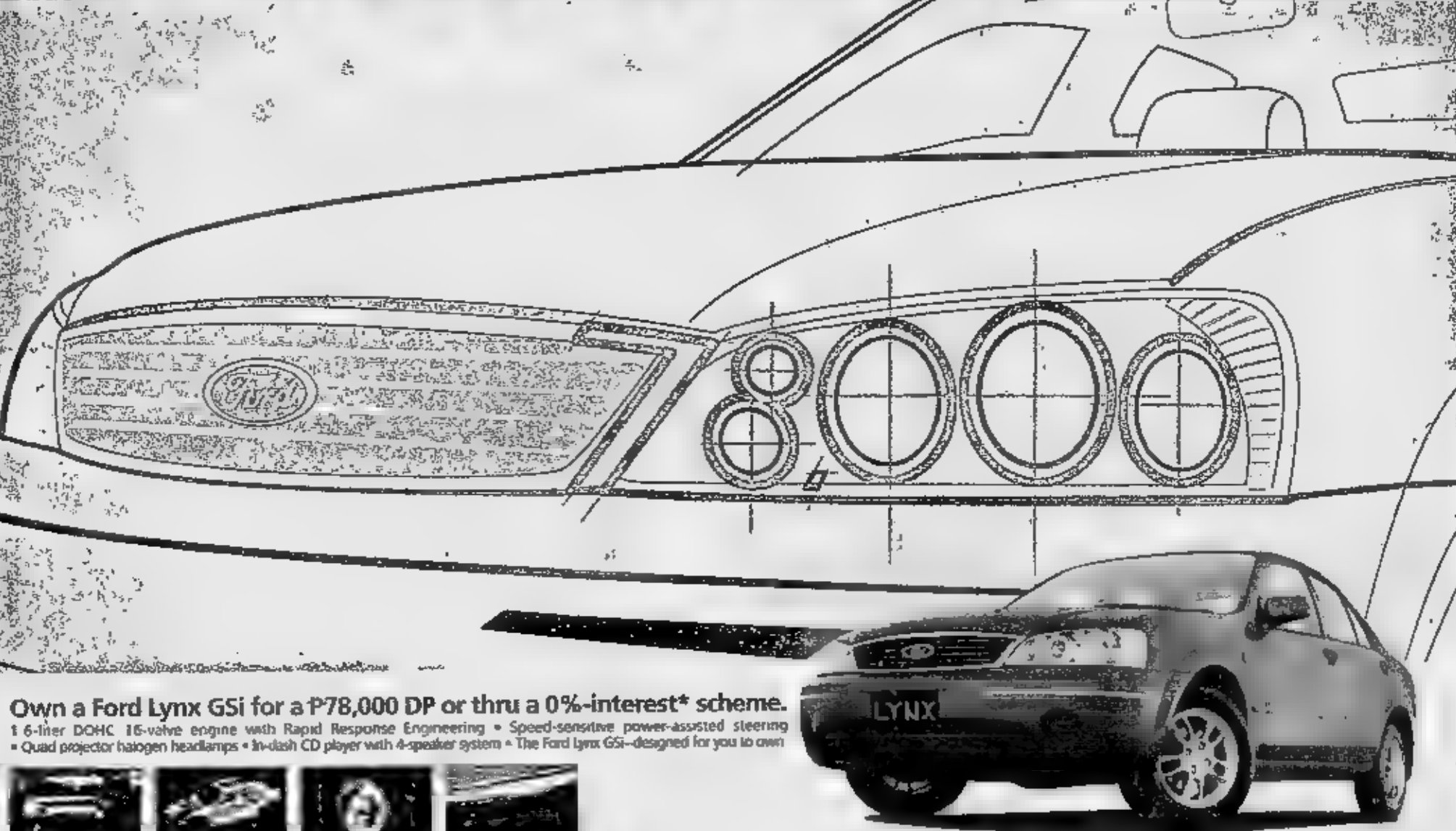
The RP men's squad ended their 16-game, 8-year winless streak with a 2-1 come-from-behind triumph in injury time over Timor Leste in Group B Tuesday evening.

Substitute Emilio Caudong proved to be the hero as he knocked in the equalizer in the 89th minute and then scored the game-winner two minutes into injury time.

It was the Philippines' first win in the biennial football competition for Southeast Asian nations since it

here by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, began their 2004 campaign with a 1-0 defeat to Myanmar followed by a 4-1 setback to Malaysia.

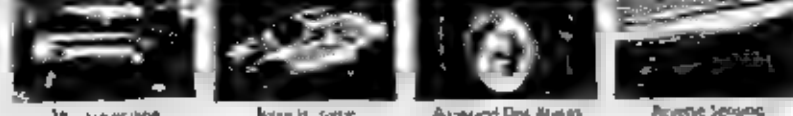
THE PERFECT PLAN TO OWN A FORD LYNX GSi



Own a Ford Lynx GSi for a P78,000 DP or thru a 0%-interest* scheme.

1.6-liter DOHC 16-valve engine with Rapid Response Engineering • Speed-sensitive power-assisted steering

• Quad projector halogen headlights • In-dash CD player with 4-speaker system • The Ford Lynx GSi—designed for you to own



1.6 liter engine, Quad projector headlights, In-dash CD player, Power steering

*Applicable to 20% DP 12-month financing scheme. Finance extended until Dec. 31, 2004. Approved by DTI-MCDO. For DTI-MCDO Permit also 4428, Series of 2004

• Ford Alabang, Book Store: 542-2626 / 542-4626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Calabarzon, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Cebu, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Davao, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Iloilo, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Cavite, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Laguna, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Marikina, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Muntinlupa, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Naga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Quezon City, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford San Jose, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Tagaytay, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Valenzuela, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

• Ford Zamboanga, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Zambales, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626 • Ford Batangas, Book Store: 542-2626, Fax No: 542-4626

A Date with the BMW WilliamsF1 Team.

Oris WilliamsF1 Team Day Date



The flexible lugs fit the wrist perfectly.

As the official watch partner of the BMW WilliamsF1 Team, Oris brings a dynamic new design to the Formula 1 arena. The dial, in a solid, two-piece case of stainless steel, is presented in the cockpit look and is exclusively marked with the Williams logo. The flexible lugs fit the curve of your wrist perfectly. The rubber strap sports the original vertical tyre

Partners of the BMW WilliamsF1 Team, where a fraction of a second can make the difference between winning and losing.



tread of Formula 1. Perfection and precision are of paramount importance here. Up to the innovative double display of week day and date, Oris WilliamsF1 Team Day Date is High-Mech at high speed.



Visible through the case back, the red rotor of the High-Mech movement.

ORIS

Swiss Made Watches Since 1904



Ralf Schumacher, racing driver of BMW WilliamsF1 Team
"Time is always the decisive factor - for me and for Oris."

Official Service Center: WATCHWORKS, 2/F, ALI MALL, Araneta Center, Quezon City • G/F, AYALA CENTER CEBU, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City

Shell gets back at Talk 'N Text

GAME TODAY (Dagupan)
6 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel

By Musong R. Castillo

RONALD Tubid scored 22 of his career-high 28 in the first half and turbo-charged the Shell offense last night in a 103-98 win over Talk 'N Text that kept its outright semis bid alive in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup.

The Turbochargers fed off Tubid's energy to lead from start to finish and win for the 11th time in 17 games while denying the Phone Pals an outright berth.

Talk 'N Text trailed by as many as 17 points at one point in the fourth period and dropped into a tie for the lead with idle Barangay Ginebra at 11-5.

More significantly, the Phone Pals now have only two chances left to advance to the semifinals automatically, against Sta. Lucia and the rock-solid Kings.

"We knew how important this game was for us, that's why the boys played all out," said Shell coach Leo Austria in Filipino. "Had Talk 'N Text won, it would've been assured of a semis slot and our chances would have dimmed."

The Shell win also took sister teams Purefoods (8-8) and San Miguel (7-8) out of the outright semifinal equation.

The Beermen, incidentally, clash with Coca-Cola in another road game scheduled at 6 p.m. at the Dagupan Astrodome in Dagupan City, Pangasinan.

Not only did Shell get back at the team that dealt it a 63-80 mauling last Nov. 3. It also denied the Phone Pals the opportunity to complete another great comeback.

The Phone Pals had led this tournament from the start by winning all sorts of games, including one where they trailed by as many as 21 points before defeating Purefoods earlier in the round.

Shell can gain a playoff for one of the two slots if it beats FedEx Express in its last game in the classification round Sunday.

Tubid was on the floor for 33 minutes after being called out of the bench earlier than usual when Christian Calaguio ran into foul trouble.

RedEx Express, drawing double digit figures from six players, dealt Sta. Lucia Realty a 114-104 lashing in the second game. The Express, led by RenRen Ritualo's 24 points, improved their record to 6-9 while the Realtors fell to 5-10.

The Scores:
First Game
SHELL 103—Tubid 28, Dela Cruz 17, Mamaril 16, Alvarez 9, Ferrelra 8, Legaspi 8, Bajar 7, Calaguio 6, Sta. Maria 4, Cruz 0, Jackson 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 98—Pablo 18, Miller 16, Sekano 16, Telan 12, De Ocampo 11, Alapag 8, Ravana 6, Gellig 5, Camaso 4, Salangang 2, Fran 0.

Quarters: 30-20, 60-52, 83-68, 103-98.



JOSEPH Yeo of ICTSI drives for a basket against AMP-Ateeneo.

Deen stays ahead by 2

CEBU—Another double-bogey struck Eric Deen late in his round but he had enough cushion to stay on top by two strokes over Mark Anthony Dy halfway through the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour at the Cebu Country Club here.

Deen had a two-over par 74 for the second straight day, no thanks to a double-bogey on the 17th but stayed on course for his three-peat bid with a 148 total after 36 holes.

As Carl Almarino hobbled home with a 78, Dy took over the main challenger's role by firing the day's best round of even-par 72, spiked by four birdies including the tough 18th hole.

Dy's last hole birdie actually made a three-shot swing happen on the last two holes and with his big improvement from a 78 on Tuesday, he seems ready for a showdown with Deen.

Ferdinand Mondares also kept himself in the hunt with a 75 and a 151 aggregate while Almarino, only two shots back after Round 1, fell five behind at 153 following a 78. Tristan Tabanas (77-153), and Lino Retuerto (83-161) occupy the last two positions.

National player Jayvie Agojo plunges into action today in 36-hole ladies Class A division of the Samsung Tour also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, C-Lium Fiber, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylormade, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Pado Boracay, Coppertone Sport and Rogin-E. Killer Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Agojo is playing against World Amateur teammate Anya Tanpinco of Bacolod in the chase for a slot to the grand finals on Feb. 8-11 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Cangolf, Riviera host jungolf tilt

THE ANNUAL Christmas tournament of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines sponsored by Nike will be held on Monday at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna and the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Siang, Cavite.

Jungolfers in Class A (15-17 years), Class B (13-14), Class C (11-12) and Class D (9-10) will play at Canlubang while those in Class E (7-8) and Class F (6 and under) will see action at the Riviera executive course.

Interested players are advised to register on or before Dec. 17. Coinciding with the tourney is the renewal of membership and the election of officers. Call 893-9599 for details.

Nike, through its local distributor Pac-Sports Philippines, is providing giveaways and raffle items to all participants.

Wizards eye 7th win

GAMES TODAY (Luzon Gym)
2 p.m.—AMP-Ateeneo vs Magnolia-FEU
4 p.m.—Air Phil vs Toyota Otis-Lairan

THERE'S no question that smart defense has fueled the rise of Magnolia-FEU in the PBL Open Championship.

After an uncharacteristic three-game losing skid, the reigning champions racked up six wins in a row by limiting opponents to a league-best record of 59.8 points per game.

And the Ice Cream Wizards will try to stretch this run to seven when they gun for leadership against the slumping AMP-Ateeneo at 2 p.m. today at the Luzon College Gym.

The Wizards have reason to be cautious against the unpredictable Eagles. The seventh-placed AMP-Ateeneo scored one of its three wins against Mangolia-FEU, 55-53, in the first round.

It will be a clash of skidding teams when Toyota Otis-Lairan and Air Philippines tangle in the second game at 4 p.m.

Along with AMP-Ateeneo, another loss for the Knights and the Flight could compromise their quarterfinal bids.

The Knights, who finished third in their maiden campaign last conference, have been slipping in the standings. They're now coming off back-to-back losses against Montaña and Welcoat.

But the Flight are in worse state, having remained winless in their last eight outings.

Toyota Otis-Lairan nipped Air Philippines, 74-71, in their first meeting.

Expected to take charge for Magnolia-FEU are big men Arwind Santos, Cesar Catil and Mark Lasp. AMP-Ateeneo will strive to even things out behind the shooting of Emerson Oreta, LA Tenorio and Jenkins Mesina.

Jasmine W. Payo

Lady Admirals post sweep

THE PHILIPPINE Maritime Institute Lady Admirals pulverized San Beda-Alabang, 60-45, yesterday to post a seven-game sweep of the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association women's basketball tournament elimination round at the Pasay Sports Complex.

The Lady Admirals held the Li-onesses to just four points in the first half en route to the victory that earned them the top semifinals berth. They will face the loser of the

Rizal Technological University-Polytechnic University of the Philippines tussle in the second round at 9 a.m. today.

Janice de Guzman showed the way for the Lady Admirals with 16 points while Jacqueline Suarez hit 14.

A day earlier, De Guzman delivered 26 points in the Lady Admirals' 75-56 conquest of PUP. The setback put PUP in a share of third spot at 4-2 with RTU.

CONGRATULATIONS !!



1st Runner-Up
IMMACULATE CONCEPCION
ACADEMY (Greenhills)



2nd Runner-Up
MIRIAM COLLEGE



3rd Runner-Up
HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FRUIT-TELLA SPECIAL AWARDEES



RONAGEN MARTINEZ
"MOST VALUABLE PLAYER"



GRACE VIZA
"BEST COACH"



BERNICE CO
"BEST UTILITY"



KARA ACEVEDO
"BEST ATTACKER"



CHRISTINE BAGASINI
"BEST SERVER"



CATHY BARCELON
"BEST SPIKER"



RONAGEN MARTINEZ
"BEST BLOCKER"

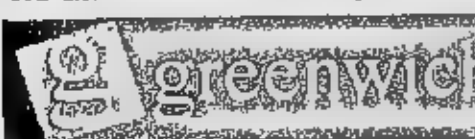


IVANA AGAYARI
"BEST ALL-AROUND PLAYER"



ANNA LOURDES TAM
"BEST SETTER"

We thank our valuable sponsors.



SPORTSWATCH

Paragua leads Singapore Masters

FILIPINO GM-candidate Mark Paragua beat IM Jason Goh of Singapore in the sixth round to grab the solo lead in the 2004 Singapore Masters International Open Chess Championships Tuesday night at the Tao Nan School, Marine Crescent district. Paragua posted his fifth win against a loss and climbed to 5.0 points, towing GM Wu Wenjin of China and GM Susanto Meganto of Indonesia, with 4.5 points each. Paragua will face GM Yu Shaofeng of China while Wu and Megaranto collide in the seventh round. In the Asian age-group brackets, Jedara Decena of Bohol beat Santhana Mahalingam Aswhini of India to score 5.0 points in the girls' 12 and under. In the boys' 14 and under, Leo Daylo Jr. drew with Alexander Kasyan to improve to 4.0 points. Other Filipino age-groupers are Marco Polo Rosete (3.5/8 U-14); Jesus Alfonso Datu (3.0/8 U-14); Randolph Dalsuta (2.5/8 U-14); Miggo Vittorio Mejico (1.0/8 U-14); Robert Franz Grati (3.5/8 U-12); Ma Virginia Gonzales (2.0/8 U-14); Mary Meola Villanueva (2/8 U-14); and Kristine Mae Mariano (3.0/8 U-12).

MM Marlon Bernardino

National drag race at Clark today

THE FIFTH leg of the Petron Blaze Shoot-out National Drag Race Championship Series will be held today at the spur road inside Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga. Teams from Manila, Dagupan, Bulacan, Cabanatuan, Baguio, Pangasinan and Pampanga will battle it out for cash prizes and trophies. Current series leaders Joey Galang (MOH Speed) with 120 points, Dondi Montecio with 100 points and Nelson Penitentan with 70 points are expected to join the race. The Petron Blaze Shoot-out National Drag Race Championship Series is organized by Activity Asia Association and sponsored by Petron Blaze and Ultron.

Santiago posts record 9 straight wins

COCKER-SPORTSMAN Jun Santiago's dark red Roundheads wiped out the opponents by piling a record nine consecutive victories in as many fights during the opening round of the NCA 7-Cock Derby Tuesday night at the Araneta Coliseum. The championship round (4-cock) starts at 6 p.m. with more than 50 encounters lined up. Santiago's winning rampage started when two of his bets, Firefly Thunderbird 13 and Beadido GC, posted six wins early on. His other entry, Firefly 14 (in partnership with Patrick Antonio) completed the rout by adding three more wins. Joining Santiago in the winner's circle are Gov. Ito Ynares (Binangonan Balbina), two-time world champion William Go (Boll Cup Colorado Sundance Mapalad) and the Jimafer Group (Jimafer JVL PBR-1) with three wins each. Meanwhile, the second leg of the NCA 7-Cock Derby series will resume on Jan. 11.

Provincial cockers challenge NCR bets

A BIG group of cockers and gametow breeders from Batangas and Laguna will challenge Metro Manila bets in a 3-cock derby tonight at the air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum to be sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Arnold Paraz of Batangas will host the P300,000 derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Entry fee is P5,500. Entries will be accepted until 2 p.m. today and participants may call 874-3910 and 873-1040 for details. Two entries—King LA of Candian Antipolo and Jhezi Farm Feb. 12 of Jover Dillo—topped the 3-cock derby last week. Meanwhile, coliseum manager Alex Tobias announced the staging of two more 3-cock derbies on Dec. 23 (Rudy Sayaman) and Dec. 30 (Eddie Alejandro). Both derbies stake a cash prize of P300,000.

Smalltime fastest win ulutan today

A HUNDRED exciting matches await backlit enthusiasts starting at 7 a.m. today when Babot "Balo" Reyes hosts a 1-Cock Xmas Smalltime Fastest Win Ulatan at Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque. Entry fee is P500 and minimum bet is P2,200. The entry that will post the fastest win gets P10,000; the 2nd—P8,000; 3rd—P6,000; 4th—P4,000, while the 5th up to 7th last-clockers pocket P2,000 each. Meanwhile, it's all systems go for the December 18, Cash Premyo VMI 3-Cock Derby. Submission of weights is set on the day of the fight from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call tels. 833-2275/833-1638 or call 0920-3074225/0822-4243404. Look for Shirley, Aubrey, Thing or Willy.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2004



ANITA Sari Liu of Indonesia forces out Wong Yen Ling of Malaysia in the third base during yesterday's game.

JES YUSON

ASIAN SOFTBALL

Chinese oust Filipinas

DEFENDING champion China ousted the Philippine Blu Girls, 5-0, last night and kept its unbeaten record in the eighth Asian women's softball tournament at the Rizal Memorial stadium.

Olympic veterans Li Qi and Chen Yan combined for a no-hitter while drawing a five-hit support as the Chinese raced to their fourth straight win to gain the semifinals, something which everybody had expected.

Like China, Athens Olympics bronze medalist Japan went 4-0 as it downed South

GAMES TODAY

(Rizal Memorial)

8 a.m.—Korea vs India
10 a.m.—RP vs Malaysia
12 noon—Japan vs
2 p.m.—China vs
4 p.m.—Chinese Taipei vs Hong Kong
6 p.m.—DPR Korea vs Indonesia

Korea, 2-0, in a Group A match for a place in the semifinals which begins tomorrow.

So dominant were the two Chinese hurlers that they allowed only one Blu Girl—Esmeralda Tayag—to reach first base, no thanks to a fielding error by shortstop Tan Ying with two outs in the third inning.

The Chinese sent Blu Girl starter Zayrei Ramos to the showers as early as the first inning with a four-run blast on three hits that included back-to-back doubles by Li Ping and Ling Hua.

Heidilyn Arca took the mound in favor of Ramos after that fateful scoring splurge, but she, too, was not up to the challenge.

The Blu Girls got eliminated after taking their second straight loss in four games.

Chinese Taipei blanked Singapore, 11-0 yesterday, to virtually make the semifinals.

UST spikers try to firm up Shakey's V-League drive

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas and Philippine Sports Commission try to keep their 1-2 positions and drive a wedge between them and their pursuers when they battle separate rivals today in the Shakey's V-League second conference at the Rizal Coliseum.

Unbeaten in three starts, including a

thrilling five-setter win over PSC last week, the UST belles are heavily favored to notch their fourth straight victory against Far Eastern U, a team hard-pressed to come up with big games after dropping three of its first four games. Gametime is at 5 p.m.

While the UST Tigresses have a rela-

tively lighter assignment in the Lady Tams, the same could not be said of the fancied PSC squad, which is expected to have its hands full against two-time UAAP champion La Salle.

PSC bashed Leirani, 25-23, 25-16, 25-18, Tuesday night to post its fourth win in five outings for solo second while

La Salle smashed FEU, 25-22, 25-23, 25-15, Sunday, its second in three games for a hold of third place in the tournament organized by Sports Vision Management Group Inc.

The PSC-La Salle match at 3 p.m. will be telecast on IBC-13 with the UST-FEU game to be aired tomorrow starting at 3 p.m.

Batawang Boxer of the Month

REIGNING Pan-African junior fly-weight king Bert Batawang of the SGG Stable has been chosen by the Games and Amusements Board as its Boxer of the Month for November.

Batawang was credited for knocking out world-ranked South African Sithembale Kibiti in their

Nov. 20 showdown held at the Oliver Tambo Hall in Khaliyetsha.

Kibiti, who was widely favored to frustrate Batawang before the bout, was ranked WBA No. 5, WBC No. 6 and WBO No. 8 and unbeaten in 16 fights before stepping into the ring against the Cebuano Batawang.

Salven Lagumbay, contributor

Dalena part of FPJ's last hours on Earth

THERE is a touch of drama attending today's spinal cord surgery on painter Danny Dalena at St. Luke's. Not much, though, on the issue of Dalena badly in need of an A+ blood as St. Luke's ran out of that yesterday, even as that deserves a second look for the queerness of things at the renowned hospital.

Poet/essayist/scriptwriter Pete Lacaba had said he would make sure Dalena would have plenty of A+ blood today and, knowing how efficient Pete had always been in "re-acting" friends every time a big event would come along, I can believe that.

The surgery on Dalena today is as big an event as the FBA game tonight in Dagupan City with no less than City Vice Mayor Fernandez as the spearhead of the expected blockbuster encounter between San Miguel Beer and Coke at the Astrodome. Willy Marcial will make sure no hitch will mar the occasion.

Pete Lacaba's text yesterday to friends reads: "We need TYPE A+ BLOOD DONORS for painter DANIELO DALENA who will undergo spinal cord surgery tomorrow. Ngayon lang nina ng hospital that they ran out of A+ Blood. Pls contact kina dalena at 09213788812 or go direct to rm333 at lukes hosp."

A joke had quickly flown. A Dalena friend had a Type A blood—"A as in alcohol." He drinks almost every day that's why.

That type was not acceptable, though. The + after A is needed to make it compatible with Dalena's type blood.

Two women had volunteered their Type A+ blood.

"No," came the reply. "Female blood not acceptable as Danilo Dalena might become gay after the operation. Only male blood are accepted."

The operation had been resorted to after Dalena could not fully recover from a road accident a while back. You see, walking, being Dalena's favorite sport, he's virtually on the road most of the time when he's not painting. One morning, Dalena, hearing impaired on one ear, got sideswiped by a vehicle. Initially, he escaped major injuries until, some

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



weeks later, he would complain of pain in the nape and in his back. Further X-rays revealed a damaged vertebra.

"I'm fine," Dalena said to me yesterday, talking on the phone from his room at St. Luke's. "At least it's quiet now here."

Dalena had checked in at the hospital just barely ahead of FPJ, who was admitted on Saturday night (Dec. 11). And therein lies the drama within the drama-turned-tragedy of the saga leading to FPJ's death on Dec. 14.

Originally, Dalena was to be roomed at 336.

"It didn't have windows and I'm a claustrophobic, so I refused it," said Dalena of Room 336. "When I saw Room 333, I immediately said this is it because it has windows."

Room 333 was next to the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) where FPJ was taken in after suffering that massive stroke on Saturday.

"Naturally, my room became part in the run-up to the last hours of FPJ on Earth as people stayed near my door during the round-the-clock watch on Da King's condition," said Dalena. "At one point, Father Jerry Orbes became my guest and even used my phone to his heart's content."

Father Orbes visiting FPJ twice was no surprise because both Father Orbes and FPJ trace their roots in San Carlos City in Pangasinan. Their fathers had been born there.

"When I told Father Orbes that he and I had gulped beer one time in a party hosted by Erwin (Castillo), he felt very happy and next gave me his blessings and prayers for my successful operation," said Dalena.

And what happened to Room 336 which Dalena had refused?

"Susan Roces stayed there during the watch on FPJ's condition," Dalena said.

PROMO EXTENDED UP TO DECEMBER 31, 2004! Approved by DTI-NCR

NISSAN CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

This Christmas NISSAN makes your wish come true! Grab all these great offers! Don't miss the most exciting deals ever on NISSAN Sentra and X-TRAIL!



NISSAN

CATCH YOUR DREAM DRIVE!

BUY A New NISSAN NOW for a chance to win a BRAND-NEW X-TRAIL or great PHILIPS Dream Packages!

Assembled and distributed by
NISSAN MOTOR
PHILIPPINES, INC.

www.nissan.com.ph

METRO MANILA
NISSAN GALLERY QUEEN'S HILL
Tel. Nos. 771-5552, 771-6435
AGUINAYAN DEPT. CORP.
Tel. Nos. 543-2218 to 23, 643-8861
NISSAN WESTGATE
Tel. Nos. 772-125 to 30, 775-0259
NISSAN COMMERCE
Tel. Nos. 852-9422, 852-4081

MANILA AREA
Tel. Nos. 221-2854, 221-5020
NISSAN GALLERY OUTBACK
Tel. Nos. 825-2254
NISSAN MOTOR 889A
(Alibon Road)
Tel. Nos. 330-5331 to 36, 455-0800
NISSAN CTR. AYALA, MANILA
Tel. Nos. 480-1020, 480-2177

LEXUS
NISSAN HAZE
Tel. Nos. 754-472-3877 to 78
NISSAN PAMPANGA
Tel. Nos. 245-6484 to 87,
745-84-9481
NISSAN BOUTIQUE 0099
Tel. Nos. 245-430-1532 to 34,
(62) 859-2401 to 82

NOTICE MOTOR CENTER
Tel. Nos. 244-453-7240 to 12,
(044) 462-3254
SANTAGO CITY
Tel. Nos. 8078-028-4284,
(022) 245-6424
PAMPANGA
Tel. Nos. 244-581-7773 to 74

VISAYAS
NISSAN DACCOR
Tel. Nos. 1034-434-4291 to 92
NISSAN CEBU DRIVE
Tel. Nos. 8233-540-0550,
(032) 245-6424
NISSAN CEBU 19 64 Motors
Tel. Nos. 8233-4051 to 53

MINDANAO
NISSAN CAGAYAN DE ORO
Tel. Nos. 24522770-716, 725-082
DUTIGAN
Tel. Nos. 051-615-3184, 343-7210
DAVAO UNICAP CORP.
Tel. Nos. 242-221-1814 to 18
GENERAL
Tel. Nos. 080-533-3228

NBA EVERYWHERE!

NBA RADIO



NBA RPN

NBA RADIO

NBA TV on SOLAR SPORTS

NBA on RPN

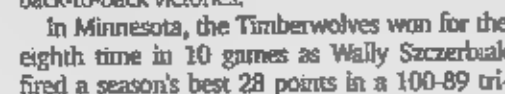


8:00 am

8:00 am replay 9 pm

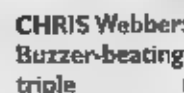
7:30 pm

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored 31 points and Willie Green added 17, all in the second half, as the 76ers rallied from an 18-point deficit to record their third consecutive win by



In Charlotte, Eneka Okafor drained a pair of free throws with 5.7 seconds left in overtime to give the expansion Bobcats a 94-93 victory over the New Orleans Hornets.

In Dallas, Clifford Robinson collected a son's best 25 points as the Golden State Warriors overcame the Mavericks, 111-107. **Rea**



URBL
**Huskers
take trophy,
donation
back home**

The scores:

Quarters: 16-27 46-45, 71-66, 88-84.

Buhain: From PSC to GAB

His resignation was met with mixed reactions from the sports sector considering that Buhain, a former top swimmer and son-in-law of executive secretary Eduardo Ermita, was in the thick of preparations for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, which the

Other sports officials who refused to be named welcomed the change of leadership, which coincided with the changing

However, his stay in the P500 million-a-

Buhain, a former Athlete of the Year who won six swim golds in the 1991 SEAG, also thanked his predecessors for laying down the foundation of grassroots and local sports development.

[illegible]

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng estat prangkumulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing buwes

Cher's Mercado



Discography:



REWARDS



The wild chase is on for Inquirer's Guyito!

Look for the specially-marked Guyito entry form in the pages of Inquirer. Cut out, put your name, address and signature. Drop at designated drop boxes for a shot at your most wanted rewards!

Join the fun as Inquirer celebrates 19 exciting years of giving Filipinos no less than balanced news and fearless views. Hunt from September 27 to December 14, 2004!

Prizes (One winner per item) Grand Prize
Toyota Altis 1.6J M/T

MONTHLY DRAW

October Draw

iPAQ rz1710 • Olympus MJU300 • Finepix a202 • Epson CX5300 Printer • 20 GB iPod • Blackberry 7230 • Canon A70 Digicam

November Draw

20 GB iPod • HP d450 Portable Printer • Olympus MJU400 • Fujipix i402 • Epson CX5300 Printer • Panasonic X400 • Motorola MPX 200 • Motorola C380

Consolation

Palm Zire 72 • iPAQ • Olympus 400 • Finepix i401 • Epson Printer • Panasonic X500 • Panasonic X700 • Blackberry 7230 • Canon A70 Digicam Motorola E398 • Motorola C650 • Motorola V3 • 40GB iPod • 20GB iPod Motorola C650 • Panasonic X300 • Palm Zire 31 • Epson CX5300 Printer • Canon A70 Digicam

PROMO MECHANICS:

- Each copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will contain a specially-marked coupon featuring Guyito, the broadsheet's illustrated carabao icon, hidden in one of the pages. The hidden Guyito will appear in the PDI daily from September 27 to December 14, 2004.
- Participant can then cut-out the Guyito coupon, write down legibly his/her name, address, contact number and affix signature on the blanks provided, and send to Philippine Daily Inquirer offices or drop in drop boxes. Only original Guyito coupons will be considered valid entries. Original coupons are marked with the Guyito Wild Hunt promo logo.
- Only one Guyito coupon will be featured in each Inquirer issue from Monday to Saturday. There will be two Guyito coupons featured in Inquirer every Sunday.

d) There are two ways to send entries:

1. Mail to:

Guyito Wild Hunt: Inquirer 19th Anniversary Promo c/o PDI Building Don Chino Rocas Avenue, Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

2. Drop in drop boxes located at the following:

Robinsons Movieworld cinema lobbies (all branches)
Glorietta Mall
Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
Greenbelt 1 Cinema Lobby
Greenbelt 1 Mall
Greenbelt 3 Customer Service
Greenbelt 3 Cinema Lobby
Alabang Town Center Mall
Alabang Town Center Cinema Lobby
Ayala Center Cebu Mall
Ayala Center Cebu Cinema Lobby
Netopia (all branches)
LBC (all branches)

e) For the monthly draws, deadline of entries are on October 17 and November 17. Monthly winners will be drawn on October 22 and November 22, 3pm, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office. Winners will be notified thru a phone call and registered mail from a Philippine Daily Inquirer representative. Non-winning entries per draw will be included in the succeeding draws. The list of monthly winners will be published within two weeks after the draw.

f) Deadline of entries for the grand draw is on December 14. Mailed-in entries must be received by December 17. Grand draw and consolation prize winners will be drawn on December 21, 2004 at 12nn. Grand prize winner will win a brand new Toyota Altis.

g) A winner can only win once per draw. If a name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value. Prize categories are: monthly prize, consolation prize, and grand prize.

h) All winners below 18 years of age need to be with their legal guardian to claim prize. Both the minor and the parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that he/she is the legal guardian of the minor.

i) Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.

j) For more questions call Ms. Ching dela Cruz of Inquirer's Marketing Department at 897-8808 loc 237

k) Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Rocas Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the nearest Inquirer office indicated on the registered mail. Winners may claim their prize from October 18.

l) All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:

(1) Two valid IDs with complete real name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (i.e. birth certificate, marriage contract, SSS ID, driver's license, school ID and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.

(2) Registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer sent to the winner of the Guyito Wild Hunt raffle draw.

(3) Representative's valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through a representative)

m) All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification call and registered mail (whichever comes last) from an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.

n) All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.

PROMO EXCLUSIONS:

All employees of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Harrison Communications and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promo.



iPod
palmOne

EPSON
Uzone

Canon
PIXEL
3000

MOTOROLA
intelligence everywhere
Panasonic
Ideas for life

Metas@
Metas@
FUJIFILM

GL.be
PLATINUM
FOR THE NEW

AVAILA LIVES
LOVEMAIL!

CINEMAS

INQUIRER

INQUIRER

Per DTI Permit No. 2147, Series of 2004.

See'em all!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC	G1	G4	GB3	ACC
1 BAD SANTA	1 GEORGE & THE DRAGON	1 THE POLAR EXPRESS	1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	2 PASIYAM	2 BIRTH	2 BAD SANTA	2 OUT OF REACH
3 BIRTH	3 HONEY	3 2046	3 ALEXANDER	3 MAY
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS	4 HAROLD & KUMAR	4 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	4 BIRTH	4 TAXI
5 NATIONAL TREASURE		5 BAD SANTA	5 NATIONAL TREASURE	

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	AYALA CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS BAZAAR December 18, 2004	BUMS/AUTOMATIC CENTER December 13 to 26, 2004	SANTA CLAUS FROM FINLAND PHOTO SESSION & STORY TELLING December 14 to 16, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LINE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES featuring PIDO December 16 7:00pm to 10:00pm	CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT GREENBELT 3 The Company (Dec. 17 8pm), Philippine Madrigal Singers (Dec. 19)

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents THE WIZARD OF OZ
at REP'S GLOBE THEATER - November 13 to December 19, 2004

Ayala MUSEUM Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makah Avenue.
For inquiries please call 757-7117

NOW SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 1 & 3

RENÉE ZELLWEGER HUGH GRANT COLIN FURTH

BRIDGET JONES THE EDGE OF REASON

For screening schedules, call 729-7777
MPAA Rating: Parental Guidance Suggested (PG-13)



Internationally acclaimed director **ANG LEE**
takes you to the world of love, romance & disruption in

十國埋伏 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

NOW SHOWING IN
GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS



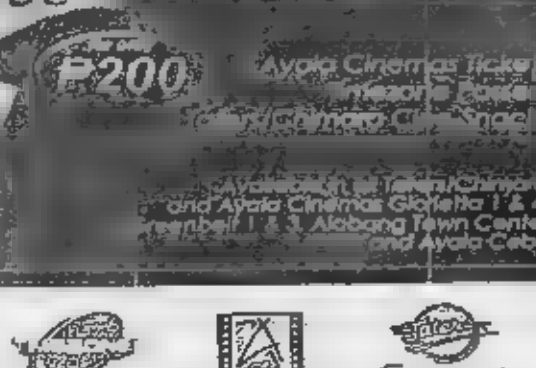
mad about 'emall!

Shop with your BPI Credit Card at your favorite Ayala Mall and get a chance to win these prizes:



G-cube

Give them the gift of total entertainment.



CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7772; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12pm • Alabang Town Center - 847-2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS 685 or SURESEATS 64 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.



A28

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 2004

Concert for cancer patients

CANCER survivors will celebrate life with a fund-raising walk and concert for indigent cancer patients on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m.

The affair, under the umbrella of "A Celebration of Life," consists of "A Walk for Life" by renowned musician and cancer survivor Toti Fuentes and his

son Damien at 3 p.m. from San Antonio in Forbes Park to Oakwood Park at Glorietta 4 where they will be joined by other cancer survivors

and supporters. Part two is the concert "A Song for Life" at 7:30 p.m. at Merik's Bar Bistro on Level 3 of Greenbelt 3, with Toti at the keyboard. All

performing artists who want to help raise funds are welcome to join. Toti, given only three months to live exactly a year ago, is celebrating his first anniversary of surviving a rare form of cancer.

Those interested in getting involved may get in touch with Maridel at 0917-7052250 or Astrud at 0927-3530157.

Show tickets are P1,000 and P500, inclusive of one drink and one appetizer. For reservations, contact Merik's at 757-4720 and 757-4721.

For reservations, contact Merik's at 757-4720 and 757-4721.

Get the celebrities

From page A29

nivalé" finale special (episodes 11 and 12).

On Cinemax, Dec. 16 at 11:45 a.m., "A Few Good Men." 5 p.m., "Cool Hand Luke." 7 p.m., "Nuts." Dec. 17 at 2 p.m., "Dead in the Water." 3:30 p.m., "My Geisha." 9 p.m., "Black Hawk Down."

can Crime." 4:15 a.m., "Strictly Ballroom."

Nickelodeon treats

THE NICKELODEON channel screens the most wanted Nicktoons and Nick flicks this month. The special Yuletide treats include a TV-movie special, a storytelling trip around Asia, the 100th episode of "All That," and a special telecast of "Fairly Odd Parents."

Watch out for dual delights on the channel's Double Decker weekends. Journey with "Tenali Raman," Krishna's favorite with "Lat the Kampung Boy" and with the "Little Tao Shu," the Chinese boy and his pet toad. Catch the TV movie "Rocket Power" on Dec. 19, as well as "Cow at the Moo-vies" and "100 Deeds for Eddie McDowd" on its new season.

Tune in as Cosmo introduces his favorite holiday-themed Nick shows from Dec. 23 to 26. On Christmas Eve there will be a five-hour viewing marathon. And New Year's Eve will feature a special "Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Kids" telecast, plus an hour-long special to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the channel.

'CNN Business Traveler'

DON'T miss "CNN Business Traveler" at 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 16, and 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 18. Join host Richard Quest as he explores one of China's biggest ports and key business hubs Shanghai.

Quest interviews entrepreneur Yae-Sai Kan, whose cosmetics line was recently acquired by L'Oréal, and jazz musician Fu Hwa, who takes viewers on a musical tour of Shanghai's past and present.

MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING

Cinema 2000 Target Mall	Linas MovieCity	Jade Cinema
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837-8926	(Calamba) tel (049) 545-7202	(Angeles City) tel (045) 687-5001 to 83
1 RESERVED	1 OUT OF REACH	1 CELLULAR
2 RESERVED	2 TOOLBOX MURDER	2 PA-SIYAM
3 RESERVED	3 POLAR EXPRESS	3 FIRST DAUGHTER
	4 PA-SIYAM	4 THE FORGOTTEN
	5 BRIDGET JONES	
	6 POLAR EXPRESS	
	7 OUT OF REACH	
	8 MAY	
	9 TAXI	
	10 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	11 ALEXANDER	
	12 BIRTH	
	13 OUT OF REACH	
	14 MAY	
	15 TAXI	
	16 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	17 ALEXANDER	
	18 BIRTH	
	19 OUT OF REACH	
	20 MAY	
	21 TAXI	
	22 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	23 ALEXANDER	
	24 BIRTH	
	25 OUT OF REACH	
	26 MAY	
	27 TAXI	
	28 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	29 ALEXANDER	
	30 BIRTH	
	31 OUT OF REACH	
	32 MAY	
	33 TAXI	
	34 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	35 ALEXANDER	
	36 BIRTH	
	37 OUT OF REACH	
	38 MAY	
	39 TAXI	
	40 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	41 ALEXANDER	
	42 BIRTH	
	43 OUT OF REACH	
	44 MAY	
	45 TAXI	
	46 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	47 ALEXANDER	
	48 BIRTH	
	49 OUT OF REACH	
	50 MAY	
	51 TAXI	
	52 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	53 ALEXANDER	
	54 BIRTH	
	55 OUT OF REACH	
	56 MAY	
	57 TAXI	
	58 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	59 ALEXANDER	
	60 BIRTH	
	61 OUT OF REACH	
	62 MAY	
	63 TAXI	
	64 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	65 ALEXANDER	
	66 BIRTH	
	67 OUT OF REACH	
	68 MAY	
	69 TAXI	
	70 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	71 ALEXANDER	
	72 BIRTH	
	73 OUT OF REACH	
	74 MAY	
	75 TAXI	
	76 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	77 ALEXANDER	
	78 BIRTH	
	79 OUT OF REACH	
	80 MAY	
	81 TAXI	
	82 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	83 ALEXANDER	
	84 BIRTH	
	85 OUT OF REACH	
	86 MAY	
	87 TAXI	
	88 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	89 ALEXANDER	
	90 BIRTH	
	91 OUT OF REACH	
	92 MAY	
	93 TAXI	
	94 NATIONAL TREASURE	
	95 ALEXANDER	
	96 BIRTH	
	97 OUT OF REACH	
	98 MAY	
	99 TAXI	
	100 NATIONAL TREASURE	

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• REGIONAL CINEMAS •

STA. ROSA LIPA

1 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS	1 PA-SIYAM
2 DARKNESS	2 ALEXANDER
3 THE FORGOTTEN	3 SEED OF CHUCKY
4 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	4 BRIDGET JONES 2
5 BUKAS MAY UMAGA	5 ONE MISSED CALL

DASMARIÑAS ANGELES

1 THE FORGOTTEN	1 OUT OF REACH
2 DARKNESS	2 TAXI
3 BUKAS MAY UMAGA	3 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
4 CELLULAR	4 THE GRUDGE
5 MAY	

IMUS STARMILLS

1 NANG NAK	1 AFTER THE SUNSET
2 BIRTH	2 TAXI
3 MAY	3 BUKAS MAY UMAGA
4 SHREK 2	4 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
5 NATIONAL TREASURE	5 THE SIN
6 NED KELLY	6 DARKNESS

BACOLOD ILOILO

1 THE POLAR EXPRESS	1 WHITE CHICKS
2 BRIDGET JONES 2	2 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS
3 NATIONAL TREASURE	3 NATIONAL TREASURE
4 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS	4 SURVIVING CHRISTMAS
5 CELLULAR	5 SAW
6 AFTER THE SUNSET	6 DARKNESS



The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass
to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and event reservations please call:

Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 (local 14 and 15)

Get the celebrities

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



REALITY TV shows, especially the "challenge"-oriented programs, used to capture viewers' attention and empathy by making life difficult for their non-celebrity contestants. They would be required to eat worms and other yucky stuff, wallow in filth, and subject their strength, physical endurance and gumption to terrifying tests.

After the shock value of these gambits palled, the shows hit upon the idea of replacing the unknowns with celebrities, to ratings-boosting effect.

All of a sudden, many more viewers watched the reality challenges. At first, the people behind the shows thought that this was simply "star value" again at work. In time, however, it became clear that viewers' attraction to the celebrity challenges was more complicated than just the pleasure of seeing their idols on the small screen one more time.

This time around, the stars were being subjected to harrowing tests and indignities, instead of being shown at their usual glamorous best.

Viewers liked this twist because it enabled them to get to know their favorite celebrities as people, sweating, hurting, getting dirty and complaining just like everybody else.

Less positively, some viewers appear to have a perverse attraction to challenges that subject celebrities to indignities and harrowing and even dangerous tests.

They seem to derive a nasty kind of pleasure in seeing stars so harried and debased. It's as if this is their way of getting back at celebrities who are more beautiful, privileged, popular and wealthier than they are.

The situation is dauntingly complex on a psychological level. And the shows knowingly take advantage of the different factors and considerations involved, because they can be depended on to keep those perversely fascinated viewers watching.

Trouble is, even the "get the celebrity" ploys eventually pall, so TV challenges have to think of even more difficult and outputting tests for fresh batches of stellar "victims."

Will there come a time when even money- and exposure-hungry celebrities end up mixing these new challenges as too exhausting and gross for them to undergo? As they say in show biz, *depende sa tindi ng pangangailangan!*

But, whatever the additional perks, they should really draw the line at some point, don't you think? Or else, their stellar sheen would be compromised and debased beyond endurance.

That's a "reality" challenge we wouldn't want to see them tackling. There are limits, even for celebrities willing to subject themselves to the unendurable, for whatever material benefits it may bring.

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Dec. 16 at 12.55 p.m., "Two Weeks' Notice." 12.50 a.m., "Doc Hollywood." Dec. 17 at 3.15 p.m., "Catch Me If You Can." 10.55 p.m., "Maid in Manhattan." 12.40 a.m., "Car-

GFY/A28

'Tito' Ronnie lives on

From page A30

My first movie, 'Divina Gracia,' was with PPJ Productions. I remember the times pag naglalarang siya na dalhan namin siya ng mga favorite food niya. I will miss his thoughtfulness. He would send gifts even when there were no special occasions."

Gina Alajar: "I used to make fruitcakes to sell during the holidays. I called Tito Ron to sell some to him. He bought 10. After two days, he called me up and told me that it was the best fruitcake he ever tasted and he ordered 50 more."

Cesar Montano: "I remember when I was starting out in show biz and my first acting job was a bit player in the movie 'Padrino.' I was nobody then but I noticed that Ninong Ron treated everybody equally."

Jolina Magdangal: "I only got to meet Tito Ron once but I was immediately struck by his kindness. We were in Pampanga promoting movies for the Metro Manila Film Festival and we talked about doing a movie together. Until we parted I could hardly believe that I was seated next to Da King. Ang bait niya! Kahit minsan lang kami nag-meet grabe ang impact sa akin."

Albert Martinez: "There are just too many wonderful things about Tito Ron to mention. One thing that stands out in my memory though is that during shootings he made sure it was like a fiesta celebration from breakfast to dinner and even during midnight snacks. Alagang-alaga niya lahat ng cast and crew from the superstars to the utility men."

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

NOW SHOWING

Find out why the critics are laughing out loud!

"One of the year's best films!"

"Levy, raunchy & likely to spawn a sequel or two."

"It's freakin' hilarious."

"An epic pathos movie with laughs and smarts"

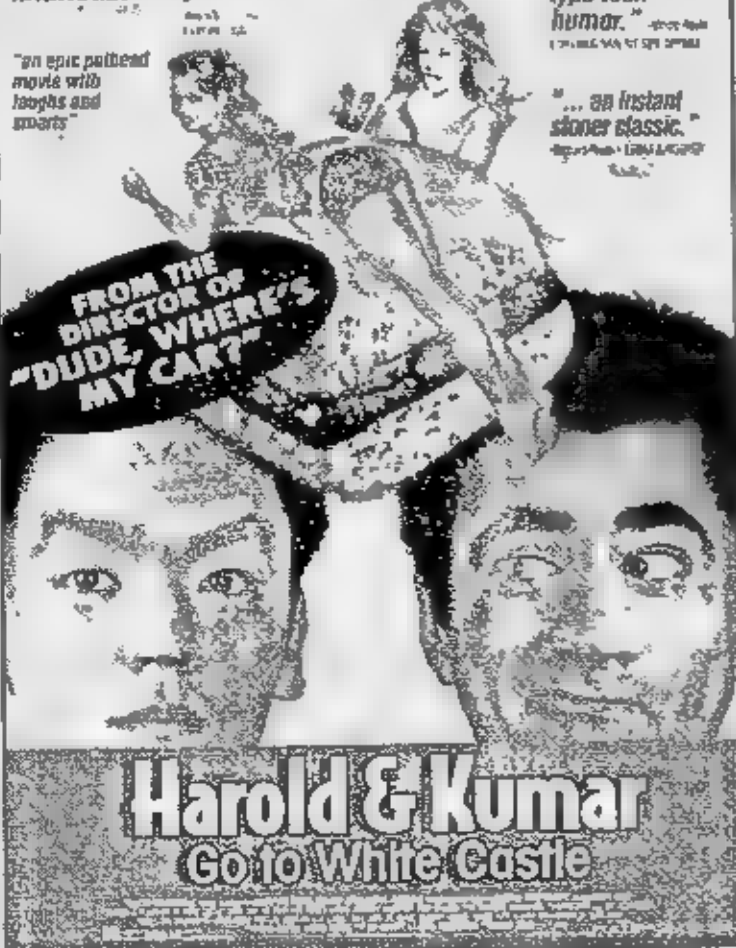
"Made me laugh loud and often as much if not more than any other movie I've seen this year."

"When the 90 minutes are up, you'll likely wonder why you laughed so hard and so often at something so silly."

"Laugh-out-loud!"

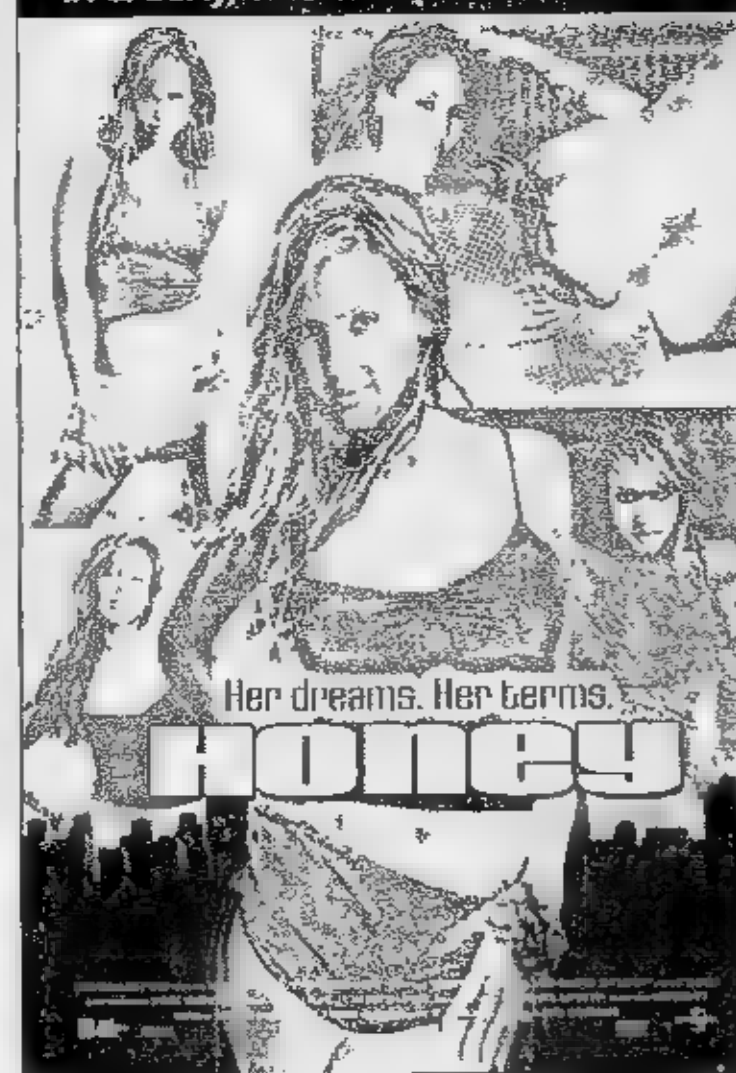
"This new comedy offers 'American Pie' type teen humor."

"...an instant stoner classic."



NOW SHOWING

See Dark Angel's JESSICA ALBA in a sexy, wild and provocative role



MABUBUSOG KA SA KATATAWA NGAYON

WALA NG MAS SASALBAHE PA SA KANYAI

GET NAUGHTY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Robinsons MOVIEWORLD

Can be YOUR CINEMA!

Open for advance screenings, theater rentals for production launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions. **PLUS!** Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.

For interested parties, you may contact Marketing Services Department 687-7945 to 47-633-4446 • 636-2894 locals 14/15

THX CERTIFIED CINEMA

CINEMAS See it at its Best!

the national commission for culture & the arts in cooperation with
movieland film institute / dagupan city heritage commission
city government of dagupan / provincial government of pangasinan & kangaran gallery presents

PELIKULA AT KULTURA 2004

the national cinema audience development program
GOES TO DAGUPAN CITY!

A Tribute to
VICTORIO C. EDADES
SON OF DAGUPAN, REVOLUTIONARY ARTIST

Film screenings of EDADES:
Modernism in Philippine Art by Nick Deocampo

Dec 16 Bolosan High School

Symposium at the Dagupan City Museum
10 am - 12nn
Campus screenings will also be held at
University of Luzon, University of Pangasinan,
Computer College & Lyceum Northwestern University

FOR INFORMATION PLS CALL MFI 727 1915 / 727 1961

SM movietime

SM LIVE! Welcomes you to

PETER PAN AND THE TIME MACHINE

I whattawatch!

ALEXANDER Subject to MTRCB RATING

SM Bacoor Cinema 4 SM Cebu Cinema 2

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB Rating: PG-13

SM Davao Cinema 3 SM Baguio Cinema 3 SM Cagayan Cinema 3

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS MTRCB Rating: G

SM Pampanga Cinema 3 SM Davao Cinema 4 SM Cebu Cinema 3 SM Iloilo Cinema 3

PASIYAH SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM Bacoor Cinema 5 SM Davao Cinema 5 SM Cebu Cinema 6 SM Baguio Cinema 4 SM Desmarines Cinema 1

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB Rating: G

SM Bacoor Cinema 5 SM Cagayan Cinema 1 SM Iloilo Cinema 6 SM Cebu Cinema 1 SM Pampanga Cinema 5

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB Rating: G

SM Bacoor Cinema 8 SM Cagayan Cinema 4 SM Baguio Cinema 1 SM Lucena Cinema 1 SM Batangas Cinema 2

SURVIVING CHRISTMAS MTRCB Rating: G

SM Iloilo Cinema 5 SM Batangas Cinema 4

Movies are subject to change without prior notice. For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinemas.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

'Tito' Ronnie lives on

PEOPLE like Tito Ronnie Poe seem immortal. Immortality is not about having superpowers. It is about how many lives we have touched. In that sense, Tito Ron truly lives on.

I will never forget the time I had

a long chat with Tito Ron. It only happened once but that encounter has had such a profound effect on me.

I joined him, Anjanette Abayari and the rest of the cast of their movie during their victory party. Tito Ronnie fondly called me "proxy" because ev-

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann
Carvajal



ery time he was a *ninong* at a wedding, I happened to be my mom's proxy. I even told him that if and when I get hitched again myself, I would want him to be my *ninong*. He smiled, "Sure, proxy! Kahit saan pa yung kasal mo. Basta make sure the guy won't make you cry or else lagot siya sa akin!"

I was surprised that he was aware of the controversy I was embroiled in at that time regarding my controversial relationship with an action star. He talked some sense into me. "Napagod ko yung interview mo sa TV," he said. "You sounded so mad. You better stop talking about the issue already. Here's my direct line. Call me when you feel bad again."

I was speechless. Right there and then I saw for myself what the so-called FPJ mystique is all about. When you were around him, he made you feel that he was really there for you. Even in his absence, we can still feel his presence.

Thank you, Tito Ron, for giving me a taste of fatherly concern which has eluded me all my life. For me, there will never ever be a proxy for you. Stars talk about Tito Ron, too.

Lorna Tolentino: "I am an FPJ baby."
TITO: A29



Where
you find
the best.

VISIT US AT

www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB
Market

JOBMarket
ONLINE

Kissable Lips
in just 45 mins.



Ms. Ellen Lising with Stella L.
on permanent cosmetics

Have problem with
dark face, underarm, nape, groin and elbows?

Miracle Whitening Cream

Whiter skin in just one week!

Special Christmas Promo

Avail up to **50% discount**
on all major services on
Dec 17, 2004

Ellen's Aesthetic Center

Inquire now : 374-6665



POND'S

Only for you, Girlfriend - a chance to recharge and enjoy beautifully refreshed skin at the Pond's Refreshing Facial Spa!

Globe
girlfriends
club

POND'S

For your EXTRA Girlfriends treats -
text **EVENT POND'S** to 2209.

- FREE Pond's Oil Removing Refreshing Wash 50ml tube
- 1 FREE facial massage
- FREE Derma consultation & lectures from Pond's Beauty Experts

Girlfriends, want oil-and blemish-free skin?
Get Pond's Institute herSKIN tips
Text **HERSKIN** to 2346. P2.50/infotext

Text **EVENT PONDSSKED** to 2209 to download the tour schedule.

MALL SPA

Dec. 18-19SM Fairview
Jan. 8-9 Farmers Plaza
Jan. 15-16 SM Megamall

PROVINCIAL BUS SPA

Dec. 17 Ateneo de Davao, Holy Cross, City Hall
Dec. 18 Gaisano Davao, Matina Town Square
Dec. 19 SM Davao, Gaisano Davao

Not yet a member? Text **CLUB** to 2209
All text to 2209 is free.

making great things possible for her **Globe**
HANDPHONE



GUYITO MISSING

- Look for specially-marked Guyito coupon in the pages of the Inquirer everyday
- Cut out, put your name, address, contact number and signature
- Drop at designated dropboxes

INQUIRER





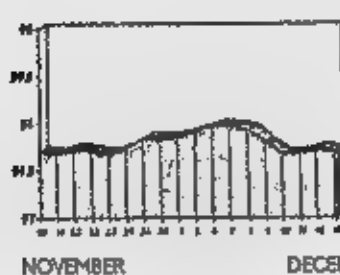
BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer.biz name/chn/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

OFW remittances up 9.5% in 10 months

INDICATORS CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 56.30 = \$
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 15, 2004

Y 105.09 = \$
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 15, 2004

GOLD: \$437.10-437.60
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 15, 2004

December 15, 2004

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.751654	1.000000	56.2970
Japan	Yen	0.007123	0.009477	0.5335
United Kingdom	Pound	1.449714	1.928700	108.5800
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.096662	0.128599	7.2397
Switzerland	Franc	0.651403	0.866626	48.7884
Canada	Dollar	0.455503	0.606134	34.1235
Singapore	Dollar	0.568516	0.756487	42.5879
Australia	Dollar	1.993829	2.652590	149.3329
Bahrain	Dinar	0.200446	0.266674	15.0128
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.454227	0.604303	34.0204
Brunei	Dollar	0.000080	0.000107	0.0060
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.019020	0.025304	1.4245
Thailand	Baht	0.204660	0.272279	15.0128
JAE	Dirham	1.000000	1.330400	74.8975
Elvo	Euro	0.253082	0.336700	18.9552
Argentina	Peso	0.271848	0.361664	20.3739
Brazil	Real	0.134502	0.178942	10.0739
Denmark	Kroner	0.017063	0.022701	1.2780
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.197830	0.263193	14.8176
Mexico	New Peso	0.066772	0.088834	5.0011
New Zealand	Dollar	0.532786	0.708818	39.9043
Norway	Kroner	0.121457	0.161587	9.0969
Pakistan	Ruppee	0.012654	0.016835	0.9476
South Africa	Rand	0.131551	0.175015	9.8532
Korea	Won	0.000710	0.000945	0.0532
Sweden	Kroner	0.111491	0.148328	8.3443
Syria	Pound	0.014480	0.019284	1.0845
Taiwan	Ni Dollar	0.023135	0.030779	1.7328
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000392	0.000522	0.0294

STOCK MARKET

Shares end higher

SHARES finished higher yesterday, in step with many Asian markets, as investors continued to hunt for blue-chip bargains following the index's recent decline, traders said.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index ended up 19.16 points,

or 1.1 percent, at 1,794.89. The index lost 2.9 percent in three straight sessions before recovering by 1.6 percent Tuesday.

"Investors focused on select blue chips, such as those in telecoms and property," said BPI Securities senior manager Roberto Cano.

Gainers led decliners 51 to 22, while 38 stocks were unchanged. PLDT was the most actively traded stock, ending up 2.4 percent at P1,290, after its American depositary receipts gained 1.6 percent in New York Tuesday.

Globe also rose 1.6 percent to close at P930.

The two stocks were unaffected by ratings agency Fitch's announcement earlier yesterday that it has revised its outlook for the companies' long-term foreign currency rating to negative from stable. Traders said the move was expected as it reflected Fitch's recent action on the Philippines' long-term ratings.

SM Prime rose 2.7 percent to P770, after the country's largest mall operator yesterday confirmed a report that it was confident of sustaining net profit growth of 10 to 11 percent on year in the fourth quarter.

MacroAsia gained 44 percent to P2.90 following a block sale of 3.35 million shares.

The Asian Development Bank's warning, released shortly before the market closed, that the country faces economic instability if it fails to swiftly put in place much needed fiscal reforms didn't have much impact.

US mutual fund buys 2.86% of BDO

SMALLCAP World Fund Inc., an American mutual fund, has bought a 2.86-percent stake in Henry Sy-led Banco de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) for P637 million.

In a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), BDO said SCWF has bought 26 million shares of the bank as of Dec. 9 at an average price of roughly P24.52 each. BDO closed at P24.75 yesterday.

SCWF, managed by Capital Research and Management Co., seeks to provide long-term growth of capital by investing in the stocks of smaller companies in the United States and around the world.

At least 80 percent of its assets are normally invested in equities of issuers typically having market capitalizations from \$50 million

to \$2 billion.

Some of SCWF's assets are placed in media companies, commercial banks, commercial services, internet software services and oil and gas companies.

After its recent sale of shares to international investors from Asia and Europe, BDO said the biggest shareholder is still the SM Group with 47.5 percent followed by Cambridge group at 18.7 percent and the DBS of Singapore at 5.3 percent.

BDO recently secured regulatory approval that allowed foreign investors to buy an additional 15-percent stake in the bank to boost trading of its shares. The sale of secondary shares last November raised roughly \$50 million.

This increased the bank's free float to 28 percent from 13 percent.

By Doris C. Dumlaog

REMITTANCES from overseas Filipino workers rose by 10.1 percent in October to \$741 million from a year ago, fueled by funds earmarked for Christmas spending.

"With the onset of the holiday season, overseas workers increase their fund transfers to defray holiday-related expenses of their beneficiaries," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

This brought the cumulative 10-month OFW remittances to \$6.9 billion, 9.5 percent higher than the \$6.3 billion sent in the same period last year, according to BSP data.

"This trend, expected to be sustained with the start of the remittances for the holiday season, strengthens expectations that the 6-percent growth target in 2004

will be exceeded," Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said the rise in remittances could be attributed to the higher deployment of Filipinos abroad, particularly of higher paid skilled and professional workers as well as the improved capture of remittances by banks.

Buenaventura noted the higher deployment of both land- and sea-based workers based on data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

For the first 10 months of the year, total deployment grew by 4.1 percent to 760,425 from a

year ago. Land-based workers were up by 4.2 percent at 572,535 while sea-based workers rose by 3.6 percent at 187,890 from comparative levels last year.

Buenaventura said there was likewise higher deployment of higher-paid skilled and professional Filipino workers such as nurses, health workers, office and food service staff and production-related workers.

"The growing number of Filipinos working abroad encouraged local commercial banks to widen their reach in countries where large OFWs are deployed by increasing the number of bank remittance centers abroad and strengthening and establishing tie-ups with overseas financial service sectors and non-bank money couriers," Bue-

naventura added.

He said the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom remained as the Philippines' major sources of OFW remittances.

Early this year, the BSP projected only a 3-percent full-year growth in OFW remittances, considering stiff competition from workers originating from other developing countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. But the deployment of more workers and the more attractive peso-dollar exchange rate increased the flow of remittances, prompting an upward revision in its forecast to 6 percent.

Overall, OFW remittances now account for almost 11 percent of the country's gross domestic product and 16 percent of the current account surplus.

ADB says fiscal situation still critical

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE ASIAN Development Bank yesterday warned that the government's "grave" fiscal situation could trigger economic instability if not urgently addressed, an observation that was in stark contrast to Malacañang's claim that the fiscal crisis was over.

In its latest country report, the ADB said the fiscal challenge was the "most important of economic imbalances" in the Philippines and should be urgently corrected to reduce poverty and boost investor confidence.

"Inadequate domestic revenue mobilization has opened another front of vulnerability, as increasing debt to finance development spending makes the country susceptible to international interest rate increases and negative market sentiment," the ADB warned.

The bank explained that the fiscal imbalance was affecting the government's:

- capacity to implement public development projects and support public-private partnerships;
- medium-term strategy to move the economy to a higher, more sustainable growth path;
- planning and prioritizing development activities, and

• options on the most appropriate financing mechanisms.

The ADB said these, in turn, would materially impact on the relationship between the government and domestic stakeholder constituencies—legislative and judicial branches, business, civil society and nongovernment organizations—as well as that between the Philippines and development partners like multilateral and bilateral development agencies, international capital markets, commercial banks, investors, and credit rating agencies.

It noted that the core of the government's fiscal consolidation effort was a raft of new tax measures supplemented by improvement in collection efficiency for existing taxes, institutional strengthening of tax agencies, more effective public expenditure prioritization, enhanced transparency in public procurement, and reduced corruption.

"Restoring financial health in the public power sector is a necessary condition for fiscal consolidation. Also important are better cost-recovery and other reforms in all public corporations, and re-engineering the bureaucracy,"



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT WAGWAG. Borkuses have yet to be released, but droves of Baguio residents have started their holiday shopping on the sidewalks. Obvious to the giant malls, shoppers prefer "wagwag" (secondhand bargain clothes) which regained its popularity after wagwag vendors shut down their stores in favor of guerrilla markets like this one.

Don't Start Using Fake Parts

fake parts. They're a bad choice that will only get worse. Save yourself a lot of trouble.

Choose only Toyota Genuine Parts.

Only they can promise the quality and performance your Toyota automobile deserves.



TOYOTA is best for TOYOTA



INTEREST RATES

December 16, 2004

MART 1 Rates

Benchmark

Interest

1 Month

3 Months

6 Months

1 Year

2 Years

3 Years

4 Years

5 Years

7 Years

10 Years

20 Years

25 Years

MART 1

16-Dec-04

8.2883

8.405

9.2357

10.2125

11.1089

11.7018

12.2833

12.7417

13.3717

13.7583

13.9393

14.4483

MART 1

14-Dec-04

8.3089

8.3783

9.2433

10.2161

11.1214

11.7036

12.275

12.76

13.4143

13.7882

13.9846

14.4625

UK's Fitch downgrades outlook on PLDT, Globe currency rating

By Clarissa S. Batino

FITCH Ratings has downgraded its outlook on the foreign currency rating of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc. to negative from stable.

In a statement yesterday, the London-based rating agency said the move was in line with a recent decision to downgrade the Philippines' sovereign debt rating to negative from stable, due to continued fiscal weakness and increasing public sector debt.

Fitch said it kept a stable outlook on PLDT's long-term peso borrowing, believing this won't be affected by any adverse changes in the sovereign grade.

A downgrade in the rating or

even the outlook tends to raise the cost of the rated firm's borrowing as it indicated more risks, giving investors more reason to demand a higher return for their placements.

PLDT and Globe are both reducing the level of their debt to save on interest payments and improve their profitability.

Both are limiting their exposure to dollar debt.

Debt of PLDT and Globe are both rated as BB by both Fitch and Standard & Poor's, or two notches below investment grade.

An equivalent mark of Ba2 is Moody's Investors Service's rating on the two phone giants although the New York-based agency had warned of a possible downgrade.

In April, Fitch upgraded the rating of PLDT's local and foreign currency debt to BB from BB minus at the back of plans then of PLDT's cash rich unit Smart Communications Inc. to buy debts and control of Pilipino Telephone Corp.

Smart will end up the majority owner of Pilite. It also earlier absorbed about \$280 million of Pilite's obligations.

"PLDT itself has reported consistent improvement in its operating and financial profile over a sustained period. Much of the improvement has been driven by robust growth at its highly cash-generative and 100 percent-owned cellular subsidiary Smart although PLDT's fixed-line business is also free cash flow posi-

tive," noted Fitch in its statement.

PLDT is planning to cut debts by at least \$500 million next year. The telecom giant is also scheduled to prepay a \$106-million debt on Dec. 20.

The debt payment in the coming week would reduce PLDT's debts to about \$2 billion.

PLDT's debt reduction strategy is more ambitious in 2005 compared to this year when it planned to shave off \$350 million from its outstanding obligations. The decision to prepay debt would bring to \$450 million the total borrowings retired in 2004.

Of the PLDT Group's outstanding \$2.99 billion debt, \$2.2 billion are owed by the fixed-line business.

NOTICE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Notice is hereby given that at 10:00 AM on 1st March 2005 a hearing will be held before Mr. Justice Lugar-Mawson in the Hong Kong Court of First Instance in respect of absconder proceedings leading to a confiscation order under the provisions of Section 8 of the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance, Cap 455 of the Laws of Hong Kong, in respect of the following persons and companies who are named as Respondents.

Amador PASTRANA Philippines passport ZZ017001 Date of birth 4th May 1972.	Respondent 1
Alpha Company Ltd Company No 15011	Respondent 2
Jindell Investment Ltd Company No 367520	Respondent 3
Jupiter Advisory Ltd Company No 407452	Respondent 4
First Pacific Company Ltd Company No 7009	Respondent 5
Systems International Ltd Company No 105043B	Respondent 6
Calimax Enterprises Ltd Company No 407451	Respondent 7
Cyplus Company Ltd Company No 114160B	Respondent 8
Jopio Company Ltd Company No 16592	Respondent 9
Nobuko Investments Ltd Company No 371740	Respondent 10
Prudence International Ltd Company No 16156	Respondent 11
Wans International Company Ltd Company No 391025	Respondent 12
Moneycare International Ltd Company No 407450	Respondent 13
Chamomile International Ltd Company No 741159	Respondent 14
Highstone Investments Ltd Company No 112158B	Respondent 15
Sabre International Ltd Company No 6470	Respondent 16
Vantage International Management Group Inc. Company No 8403	Respondent 17
Union Trading Ltd Company No 15014	Respondent 18
Novelle Investment Partners Ltd (Bahamas) Company No 81563B	Respondent 19
United Resources Asset Management Inc SEC Reg No A200005310	Respondent 20
Axied European Holdings Ltd Company No 8313	Respondent 21

Any person or company who is a Respondent can obtain a copy of documents and affirmations in relation to the hearing from either Ma. Elmira A. Alconaba, Assistant Director, Compliance and Enforcement Department, Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, or Detective Senior Inspector David COPE, Financial Investigations Division, Hong Kong Police, 2nd Floor, Arsenal House West Wing, Police Headquarters, Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. HCOMP 4221 of 2002 refers.

Motorola targets 20% of RP market by 2005

MOTOROLA, once the world leader in mobile handsets, plans to sell about a million phones in the Philippines next year, and double its market share to about 20 percent.

Motorola country manager Arlene Aran-Amarante said the company intended to achieve its goal by introducing more phone models in the market backed by aggressive marketing and branding moves.

Amarante said Motorola was coming from an estimated 9 percent share of the market as of the fourth quarter this year.

Motorola used to hold a 16 percent share of the market, but it shrunk to 9 percent as Motorola decided to concentrate on high-end models.

Amarante was originally targeting to end the year with about 24 percent of the market.

"We are back with vengeance. We are an attack brand because we have no market share to protect. We used to own this industry and we will again," she said.

This year, Amarante said sales grew four times and margins went up about seven times.

In 2005, she said the company

would spend about \$10 million or a little over half-a-billion pesos to strengthen the brand.

This year, the company spent only about \$1 million on marketing.

Aggressive marketing is part of the global strategy of Motorola to become the leading mobile company in 1,000 days.

Amarante said the share of Motorola in the Philippines would further improve once the carriers introduce push-to-talk service and adopt the 3G technology.

She claimed Motorola was the biggest player in 3G handsets.

"3G is important for a country like the Philippines with millions of overseas workers. With 3G, families could already see each other while talking," she explained.

Motorola is launching 13 new handsets in the coming year, the same number of units unveiled this year.

She said there were handsets for all types of customers, adding that Motorola would continue to offer affordable handsets to the local market.

Clarissa S. Batino

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of December 15, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	15,000
Banco de Oro Unibank	24.28	24.75	24.25	24.75	517,500
Bank of the Philippines	81	82	81	81.5	1,487,200
Equitable PC Bank Inc.	48.5	48.5	47.5	47.5	141,200
International Exch. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	243,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	26	26.5	708,200
Phil. Savings Bank	22.5	23	22.5	23	13,200
Phil. National Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	10,000
Securities Bank Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	16,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	4,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankart Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	70,000
First Abnco Financial	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	173	173	173	173	10
Manila Financial Corp.	2490	2490	2490	2490	230
PC Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	12,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	112	112	112	112	2,180
Sum Life Financial Inc.	1810	1810	1810	1810	1,880
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	1,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	11,388,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	919	920	919	920	114,820
Isipco Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	108,900
Island Info And Tech. Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	508,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	5,300,000
Manila Electric Co. B	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,000
Manila Electric Co. A	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.5	4,567,000
Phil. Long Dis. Tel. Co.	1276	1295	1275	1290	237,200
Philinvest Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	1,270,000
Phivest Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	37,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.25	18	18	43,700
Manila Electric Co. B	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	538,500
Petron Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1,545,000
Sabon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	6,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	418,900
Lorexco Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.18	90,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	260,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.98	2.04	1.94	2	4,454,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,000
Guinness San Miguel Inc.	21.5	22	21.5	22	142,000
Julienne Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	226,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	46,900
San Miguel Corp. B	78	78.5	78	78	31,500
Phil. Tobacco Co. & Realty	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	22,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abnco Corp. & Hdg A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	31,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	4,165,000
Alconco Cons. Res. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Abnco Equity Ventures	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	3,000
Alco Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Alconco Cons. Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	8,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.28	80,000
Balabac Resources & Hdg	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	750,000
Boracay Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	80,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.7	0.7	12,350,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	110,000
DANCO Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.11	0.115	680,000
Manila Dev. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.85	2,252,000
Phil. Shipyard Holdings Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.98	1,481,000
First Phil. Mngt. Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.55	4.6	726,200
J.S. Summit Holdings Inc.	31	31	30.5	31	450,000
Manila Electric Co. B	3.15	3.2	3	3	18,051,000
Manila Electric Co. A	2.1	2.95	2.1	2.9	1,109,000
Manila Electric Co. B	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	4,000,000
Manila Electric Co. A	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	500,500
Manila Electric Co. B	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	100,000
Manila Electric Co. A	3.05	3.75	3.05	3.75	217,000
Manila Electric Co. B	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Manila Electric Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
Manila Electric Co. B	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	520,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Manila Electric Co. B	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10
Manila Electric Co. A	1.42	1.5	1.4	1.5	164
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Manila Electric Co. B	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.62	2,010,000
Manila Electric Co. A	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.98	11,770,000
Manila Electric Co. B	0.63	0.65	0.61	0.61	690,000
Manila Electric Co. A	0.25	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	712,200
Macrostar Corp. Warrants	0.225	0.3	0.2	0.25	4,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.7	11,562,000
Arayeta Properties Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Capri Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	990,000
Center Bay Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	900,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,580,000
Fernest Land Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.1	7,586,000
Goltesco Land Inc.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	200,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	10,930
Manila Electric Co. B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
Manila Electric Co. A	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	710,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Primer Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	100,000
Phil. Realty and Holdings	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,000,000
SM Development Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	102,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	4,887,000
MINING					
Aper Mining Co. Inc. B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
Aper Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	54,700,000
Alconco Cons. Res. Inc.	3.75	3.95	3.75	3.95	67,000
Alconco Cons. Res. Inc.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	34,000
Danco Copper Silver Mines	3.35	3.35	3.05	3.3	58,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	3,990,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	18,820,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	192,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	146,500,000
Phil. Mining Corp. A	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	2,320,000
Phil. Mining Corp. B	0.65	0.69	0.65	0.68	10,030,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	400,000
UTILITIES					
Interport Res. B	0.0035	0.0035	0.0035	0.0035	15,000,000
The Philippine Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.2	250,000
Pacific	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	48,000
Sagip Corp.	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.039	1,200,000

DISCLOSURES

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) disclosed that **SMALLCAP World Fund Inc.**, a company incorporated in the United States, holds 26 million shares or 2.863 percent of BDO as of Dec. 9, 2004.

ELECTED directors of **Prime Orian Philippines Inc.** were Felipe U. Yap, David C. Go, Micky Yong, Yuen Po Sang, Victor C. Say, Ricardo J. Romulo, Daisy L. Parker and Ricardo J. Romulo.

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. announced the promotion of Ana Luisa S. Lim as senior vice president of the bank.

EQUITABLE PCIBank Inc.'s board of directors approved the promotion of Arsenio L. Severino as senior vice president.

ELECTED directors of **Zeus Holdings Inc.** were Felipe U. Yap, Yuen Po Sang, Ronald P. Sugapong, Daisy Parker Ariel Lopez and Atty. Jesus Clint O. Aranas as independent director of the corporation for the year 2005.

ANSCOR Consolidated Corp. (ACC), a 100-percent owned subsidiary of A. Soriano Corp. (Anscor), bought 200,000 shares of Anscor last Dec. 14. ACC now has over 717.6 million shares of Anscor. *Compiled by Chona Galang, PDI Research*

ADB says fiscal ...

From page B1

the bank said.

"By reversing the trajectory of revenue-less economic growth since 1997, the government can create fiscal space to unshackle itself from the compressed opportunities for discretionary spending in priority areas such as education, health, infrastructure, and asset maintenance," it explained.

The bank said greater domestic revenue mobilization to finance public expenditure would reduce the debt burden, interest payments on which were preempting a third of budget expenditure.

The implementation pace and quality of measures taken for fiscal adjustment will be used by private investors and financial markets to gauge the government's willingness to address its profound challenge," it said.

"This, in turn, will determine their willingness

Choose freedom
www.pc.fujitsu-asia.com

3 firms keen on tapping oil reserves of Malampaya field

By Abigail L. Ho

THREE foreign firms have expressed "serious interest" in developing the oil reserves at the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project off northwest Palawan.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said Tuesday evening that the government had to find other ways of extracting the oil from the gas field following the decision of Malampaya consortium members Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) and Chevron Texaco Philippines not to develop the oil reserves there.

However, he admitted that the government was still in talks with the consortium members even while it was considering other options.

"We're not going to wait for them, if they want (to develop the oil reserves), they better hurry. But if the consortium members are really not

willing to develop (the oil reserves), then we'll have to bring in somebody else to do it," he told reporters at the sidelines of the launch of the updated Philippine Energy Plan.

Eduardo Mañalac, president and chief executive of 10-percent Malampaya shareholder Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp., said the three entities interested in developing the Malampaya oil reserves were all Asian and had no existing business in the country.

One of the firms, he said, came from a member-country of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Indonesia is the only Asian member of Opec.

He said crude oil should be drawn from the Malampaya gas find by the middle of next year.

The oil extraction efforts would be undertaken by a new consortium composed of PNOC and one of the

three interested Asian firms, he said.

Spex and Chevron Texaco had earlier indicated their lack of interest in developing the oil reserves at the Malampaya gas find due to the relatively small oil yield as compared with their other offshore oil finds.

The Malampaya gas field is seen capable of yielding 25 million to 30 million barrels of crude.

While the multinational Malampaya consortium members might look at this yield as relatively small, Perez said it was important for the government to tap these oil reserves as it had a thrust of achieving 60-percent energy self-sufficiency by 2010.

To do this, some of the tasks that the government, in partnership with the private sector, had to accomplish was the development of indigenous energy resources and the discovery of "another Malampaya."



THE MALAMPAYA gas field is seen capable of yielding 25 million to 30 million barrels of crude.

NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC WATER TARIFF FOR THE EAST ZONE

Effective January 1, 2005, Manila Water Company, Inc. will implement the second tranche of the 2003 Rate Rebasement Adjustment as approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 02-007 dated October 25, 2002 as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 239-2002 dated December 13, 2002. Manila Water will carry out a 5.0% CPI Adjustment and a Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) of 2.75% of Basic Charge as approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 94-018-CA dated December 9, 2004 as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2004-313 dated December 10, 2004. The FCDA is computed quarterly depending on the fluctuation of the exchange rate.

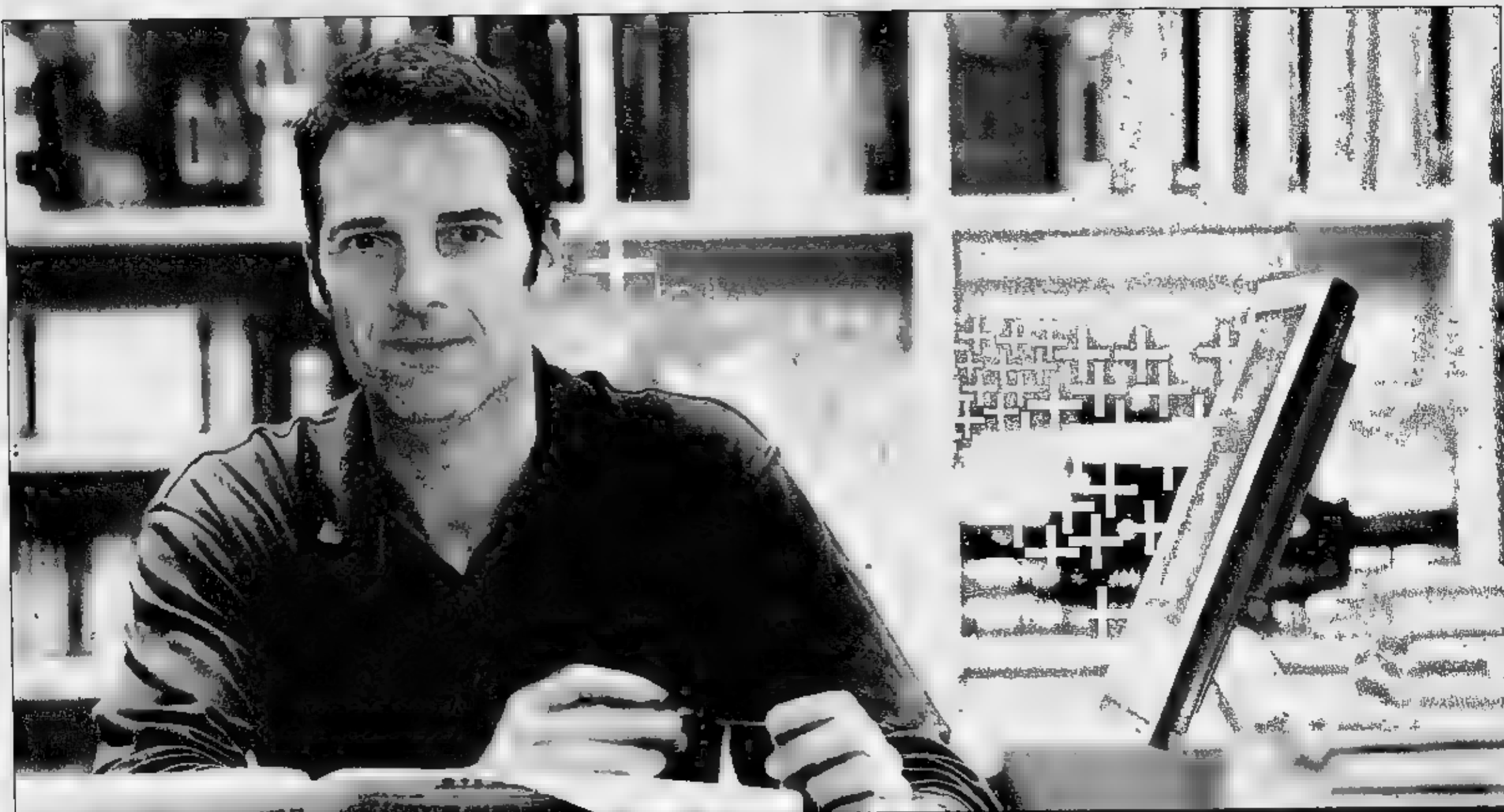
Manila Water Company, the East Zone Concessionaire covers the following areas:

Manila (San Andres and Sta. Ana only), Quezon City (west of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional and Mendenso Ave., Districts of Tandang Sora, Pasong Tama and Marikina Heights), Makati City (east of South Super Highway), Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Palawan, Taguig, all in Metro Manila; Rizal Province.

MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC.
WATER TARIFF FOR THE EAST ZONE
Effective January 1, 2005

1. Water Charge (peso per cubic meter)

		Tariff Until 31 December 2004				Tariff Effective 1 January 2005			
		A. Basic	B. CERA*	C. FCDA	TOTAL	A. Basic	B. CERA*	C. FCDA (2.75% of Basic)	TOTAL
RESIDENTIAL									
First	10 cum.	34.95 /Cum.	*10.00 /Cum.	0.58 /Cum.	45.54 /Cum.	48.88 /Cum.	*10.00 /Cum.	1.29 /Cum.	59.98 /Cum.
	10 cum.	4.27 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.07 /Cum.	5.34 /Cum.	5.72 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.15 /Cum.	6.87 /Cum.
	20 cum.	8.09 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.14 /Cum.	9.23 /Cum.	10.95 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.30 /Cum.	12.14 /Cum.
	30 cum.	10.65 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.18 /Cum.	11.83 /Cum.	14.28 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.39 /Cum.	15.67 /Cum.
Next	20 cum.	12.45 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.21 /Cum.	13.66 /Cum.	16.89 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.46 /Cum.	18.15 /Cum.
Next	20 cum.	13.03 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.22 /Cum.	14.25 /Cum.	17.47 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.48 /Cum.	18.95 /Cum.
Next	50 cum.	13.62 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.23 /Cum.	14.84 /Cum.	18.25 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.50 /Cum.	19.75 /Cum.
Next	50 cum.	14.20 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.24 /Cum.	15.44 /Cum.	19.04 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.53 /Cum.	20.57 /Cum.
Over	200 cum.	14.78 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.25 /Cum.	16.03 /Cum.	19.82 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.55 /Cum.	21.37 /Cum.
SEMI-BUSINESS									
	10 cum.	58.89 /Cum.	*10.00 /Cum.	0.89 /Cum.	69.78 /Cum.	78.09 /Cum.	*10.00 /Cum.	2.17 /Cum.	90.26 /Cum.
Next	10 cum.	7.14 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.12 /Cum.	8.26 /Cum.	8.68 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	10.34 /Cum.
	20 cum.	8.61 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.16 /Cum.	9.65 /Cum.	11.81 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.33 /Cum.	13.14 /Cum.
	30 cum.	11.18 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.18 /Cum.	12.36 /Cum.	15.00 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.41 /Cum.	16.42 /Cum.
	40 cum.	13.03 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.22 /Cum.	14.25 /Cum.	17.47 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.48 /Cum.	18.95 /Cum.
Next	20 cum.	13.62 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.23 /Cum.	14.84 /Cum.	18.25 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.50 /Cum.	19.75 /Cum.
Next	20 cum.	13.62 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.23 /Cum.	14.84 /Cum.	18.25 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.50 /Cum.	19.75 /Cum.
Next	50 cum.	14.20 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.24 /Cum.	15.44 /Cum.	19.04 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.53 /Cum.	20.57 /Cum.
Next	50 cum.	14.78 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.25 /Cum.	16.03 /Cum.	19.82 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.55 /Cum.	21.37 /Cum.
Over	200 cum.	15.41 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.26 /Cum.	16.67 /Cum.	20.67 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.57 /Cum.	22.24 /Cum.
BUSINESS GROUP I									
First	10 cum.	158.89 /Cum.	*10.00 /Cum.	2.65 /Cum.	171.55 /Cum.	213.06 /Cum.	*10.00 /Cum.	5.88 /Cum.	228.93 /Cum.
	10 cum.	15.91 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.17 /Cum.	21.33 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.59 /Cum.	22.92 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	18.00 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	19.27 /Cum.	23.50 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.59 /Cum.	25.09 /Cum.
	100 cum.	16.04 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.31 /Cum.	21.51 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.59 /Cum.	23.10 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	16.09 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.36 /Cum.	21.57 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.60 /Cum.	23.17 /Cum.
	100 cum.	16.18 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.45 /Cum.	21.66 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.60 /Cum.	23.26 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	16.22 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.49 /Cum.	21.70 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.60 /Cum.	23.30 /Cum.
Next	180 cum.	16.27 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.54 /Cum.	21.81 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.60 /Cum.	23.41 /Cum.
	100 cum.	16.35 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.63 /Cum.	21.93 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.61 /Cum.	23.54 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	16.40 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.68 /Cum.	21.99 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.61 /Cum.	23.60 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	16.45 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.27 /Cum.	17.72 /Cum.	22.04 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.61 /Cum.	23.65 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	16.54 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	17.81 /Cum.	22.13 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.61 /Cum.	23.75 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	16.58 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	17.85 /Cum.	22.17 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.62 /Cum.	23.81 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	16.63 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	17.90 /Cum.	22.22 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.62 /Cum.	23.86 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	16.68 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	17.95 /Cum.	22.27 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.62 /Cum.	23.91 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	16.72 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	17.99 /Cum.	22.31 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.62 /Cum.	23.95 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	16.76 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.04 /Cum.	22.36 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.62 /Cum.	24.00 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	16.81 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.09 /Cum.	22.41 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.62 /Cum.	24.05 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	16.86 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.14 /Cum.	22.46 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.62 /Cum.	24.10 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	16.90 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.18 /Cum.	22.50 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.63 /Cum.	24.14 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	16.94 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.22 /Cum.	22.54 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.63 /Cum.	24.18 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	16.99 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.27 /Cum.	22.59 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.63 /Cum.	24.23 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.03 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.31 /Cum.	22.63 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.63 /Cum.	24.27 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.08 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.36 /Cum.	22.68 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.63 /Cum.	24.32 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.12 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.40 /Cum.	22.72 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.63 /Cum.	24.36 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.17 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.28 /Cum.	18.45 /Cum.	22.77 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.63 /Cum.	24.41 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.26 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.54 /Cum.	22.86 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.50 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.30 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.58 /Cum.	22.90 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.54 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.35 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.63 /Cum.	22.95 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.59 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.39 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.67 /Cum.	22.99 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.63 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.43 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.72 /Cum.	23.04 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.68 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.48 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.76 /Cum.	23.08 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.72 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.52 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.80 /Cum.	23.12 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.76 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.57 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.85 /Cum.	23.17 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.81 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.66 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.94 /Cum.	23.26 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.65 /Cum.	24.90 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	17.70 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.98 /Cum.	23.30 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.65 /Cum.	24.94 /Cum.
Next	1000 cum.	17.75 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.30 /Cum.	19.05 /Cum.	23.38 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.65 /Cum.	25.03 /Cum.
BUSINESS GROUP II									
First	10 cum.	171.82 /Cum.	*10.00 /Cum.	2.87 /Cum.	184.69 /Cum.	230.52 /Cum.	*10.00 /Cum.	8.36 /Cum.	248.89 /Cum.
Next	90 cum.	17.30 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.59 /Cum.	23.20 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.84 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	17.39 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.68 /Cum.	23.32 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.64 /Cum.	24.96 /Cum.
	100 cum.	17.52 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.82 /Cum.	23.50 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.65 /Cum.	25.15 /Cum.
	100 cum.	17.65 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.29 /Cum.	18.95 /Cum.	23.68 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.65 /Cum.	25.33 /Cum.
Next	150 cum.	17.75 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.30 /Cum.	19.05 /Cum.	23.80 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.66 /Cum.	25.48 /Cum.
Next	150 cum.	17.86 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.30 /Cum.	19.16 /Cum.	23.95 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.66 /Cum.	25.64 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	18.02 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.30 /Cum.	19.32 /Cum.	24.18 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.67 /Cum.	25.85 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	18.11 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.30 /Cum.	19.41 /Cum.	24.28 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.68 /Cum.	25.94 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	18.24 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.30 /Cum.	19.56 /Cum.	24.46 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.68 /Cum.	26.14 /Cum.
Next	100 cum.	18.38 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.31 /Cum.	19.69 /Cum.	24.64 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.69 /Cum.	26.32 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	18.47 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.31 /Cum.	19.78 /Cum.	24.74 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.69 /Cum.	26.43 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	18.60 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.31 /Cum.	19.91 /Cum.	24.84 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.69 /Cum.	26.53 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	18.69 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.31 /Cum.	19.99 /Cum.	24.94 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.69 /Cum.	26.63 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	18.83 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.31 /Cum.	20.14 /Cum.	25.06 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.70 /Cum.	26.78 /Cum.
Next	200 cum.	18.95 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.32 /Cum.	20.28 /Cum.	25.25 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.70 /Cum.	26.94 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	19.05 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.32 /Cum.	20.37 /Cum.	25.35 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.71 /Cum.	27.13 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	19.19 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.32 /Cum.	20.51 /Cum.	25.55 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.71 /Cum.	27.26 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	19.32 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.32 /Cum.	20.65 /Cum.	25.73 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.71 /Cum.	27.41 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	19.41 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.32 /Cum.	20.74 /Cum.	25.81 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.72 /Cum.	27.52 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	19.55 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.33 /Cum.	20.87 /Cum.	25.93 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.72 /Cum.	27.65 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	19.68 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.33 /Cum.	21.00 /Cum.	26.06 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.73 /Cum.	27.78 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	19.77 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.33 /Cum.	21.10 /Cum.	26.15 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.73 /Cum.	27.88 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	19.91 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.33 /Cum.	21.24 /Cum.	26.33 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.74 /Cum.	28.01 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	20.04 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.33 /Cum.	21.38 /Cum.	26.57 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.74 /Cum.	28.15 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	20.13 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.34 /Cum.	21.47 /Cum.	26.69 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.75 /Cum.	28.24 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	20.27 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.34 /Cum.	21.60 /Cum.	26.89 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.75 /Cum.	28.42 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	20.35 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.34 /Cum.	21.68 /Cum.	26.97 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.76 /Cum.	28.50 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	20.49 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.34 /Cum.	21.83 /Cum.	27.17 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.76 /Cum.	28.65 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	20.63 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.35 /Cum.	21.97 /Cum.	27.36 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.76 /Cum.	28.80 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	20.72 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.35 /Cum.	22.06 /Cum.	27.45 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.77 /Cum.	28.89 /Cum.
Next	500 cum.	20.85 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.35 /Cum.	22.20 /Cum.	27.64 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.77 /Cum.	29.03 /Cum.
Next	1000 cum.	20.95 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.36 /Cum.	22.34 /Cum.	27.84 /Cum.	1.00 /Cum.	0.78 /Cum.	29.17 /Cum.

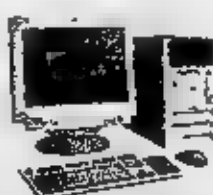


Make sound investments for your business today!

When you invest in HP Compaq Business Desktops and HP Compaq Business Notebooks you're buying into one of the world's most trusted names in technology solutions. Powered by Intel® processors these business machines are the picture of state-of-the-art technology and unmatched efficiency making sure your business is productive all the time. With HP, we make sure that you get the best after sales support possible with our worldwide warranties and "ready-to-answer" call center.

Get more technology, expertise and support from HP's Smart Office solutions.

HP recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.



HP COMPAQ BUSINESS DESKTOP d220 MICROTOWER

New Product!

PHP35,210 Core technology at the best price

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.50GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- Intel® 845GV Chipset
- 40GB Hard Disk Drive (5400rpm)
- 256MB DDR (PC 2700) memory
- Intel® Extreme Graphics
- Integrated Broadcom 10/100 Ethernet
- Integrated Intel® Audio with Internal Speaker
- HP 5550G 15" CRT monitor
- 1-year parts, 1-year labor, and 1-year on-site service (next business day). Upgradeable to 3-year parts with HP Care Pack for PHP1,590

FREE HP Deskjet 3744 Colour Inkjet Printer for every 5 units purchased (one time purchase only).



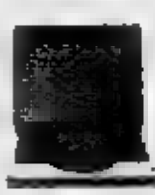
HP COMPAQ BUSINESS DESKTOP d2000 MICROTOWER

New Product!

PHP51,950 Core technology at the best price

- Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with HT Technology® 2.80GHz
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- Intel® 845GV Chipset
- 80GB Hard Disk Drive (7200rpm)
- 52X CD-ROM drive
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 256MB DDR (PC 3200) memory
- Intel® Extreme Graphics
- Integrated Intel® PBO/100
- Integrated Intel® Audio with Internal Speaker
- HP 5550G 15" CRT monitor
- 1-year parts, 1-year labor, and 1-year on-site service (next business day). Upgradeable to 3-year parts with HP Care Pack for PHP1,590

FREE HP Deskjet 3744 Colour Inkjet Printer for every 5 units purchased (one time purchase only).



HP COMPAQ BUSINESS NOTEBOOK nx9040

PHP89,950 Maximum of Exceptional Value

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725A*
- Intel® 855GM Chipset
- Intel® wireless LAN 802.11b
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- 15-inch XGA TFT display
- 40GB HDD
- 1.44MB Floppy drive
- DVD CD Writer Combo drive (Hot Swappable)
- 256MB memory
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- High Speed 56K modem
- One-year Limited Worldwide warranty
- 42MB Cache, 1.60GHz, 400MHz FSB

FREE Targus Carrying Case
FREE HP Deskjet 3744 Colour Inkjet Printer

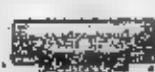


HP COMPAQ BUSINESS NOTEBOOK nx7010

PHP119,950 Maximum productivity with no compromise mobility

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
- Intel® Pentium® M Processor 735A*
- Intel® 855GM Chipset
- Intel® wireless LAN 802.11b/g
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- 15.4-inch XGA TFT display
- 60GB HDD
- Secure Digital (SD) slot
- DVD CD Writer Combo Drive
- 512MB memory
- 10/100 LAN (Broadband ready)
- High Speed 56K modem
- One-year Limited Worldwide Warranty
- 42MB Cache, 1.70GHz, 400MHz FSB

FREE Targus Carrying Case



FREE HP Deskjet 3744 Colour Inkjet Printer for every unit purchased of HP Compaq Business Notebook nx9040 and for every 5 units purchased (one time purchase only) of the HP Compaq Business Desktop d220 Microtower or HP Compaq Business Desktop d2000 Microtower.



FREE Targus Carrying Case for every unit purchased of HP Compaq Business Notebook nx9040 or HP Compaq Business Notebook nx7010.

Prices run from December 15, 2004 to January 15, 2005
Part D11-NG3 Part No. 3333 Series of 2004



HP COMPAQ BUSINESS DESKTOP d220 MICROTOWER

Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.80GHz, Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional, Intel® 845GV Chipset, 40GB Hard Disk Drive (5400rpm), 48X CD-ROM drive, 1.44MB Floppy Drive, 256MB DDR (PC 2700) memory, Intel® Extreme Graphics, Integrated Broadcom 10/100 Ethernet, Integrated Intel® Audio with Internal Speaker, HP 5550G 15" CRT monitor, 3-year parts, 1-year labor, and 1-year on-site service (next business day)

PHP49,950 Core technology at the best price



HP iPAQ POCKET PC hx4700

Intel® PXA270 Processor 624MHz, Microsoft® Windows Mobile™ 2003 Second Edition software for Pocket PC (Premium Edition), 4-inch transreflective type VGA TFT color, Portrait and landscape, Up to 135 MB user available memory (includes BOM iPAQ File Store), 192 MB total memory, (128 MB SDRAM Flash ROM and 64 MB SDRAM), Integrated Bluetooth™, Integrated wireless LAN 802.11b, Compact Flash I Type B Slot, SD/SDIO/MMC slot, Removable/Rechargeable 1800mAh Lithium-Ion user swappable battery, One-year Worldwide Limited warranty

PHP39,950

With certified service and genuine parts, HP Care Pack adds more value to your warranty. Insist on one today.



CALL

(632) 867-3557

Toll-free 1-800-1441-6688

EMAIL

ph.contact@hp.com

VISIT

your local hp reseller



DISTRIBUTORS: Lumen International 834-7089 • MSO (Malaysia) Inc. 439-7777 • PREMIER BUSINESS PARTNERS: CILink Systems 802-9515 • Integrated Computer Systems 757-3809 • Hewlett-Packard 755-9538 • HP-Data Business Systems 811-3678 • Uscom Computer Systems 324-5888 • BUSINESS PARTNERS: Advance Solutions 688-3935
• Mytech 722-4122 • MG Business 342-7020 • Microbase 612-7803 • Microbase 752-4595 • Microbase Tech 848-4663 • Microbase 812-8112 • Log Kiva Development Corporation 052-345-2526 • Shopton 748-0431 • Value 241-6881 • Zentive 385-0530
©2004 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. Intel, Intel Inside, Intel Inside logo, Pentium, Intel Centrino and Intel Centrino logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Intel's numbering is not a measurement of higher performance. The hyperthreading feature is a new technology designed to improve performance of multi-threaded software products. Please contact your software provider for platform software compatibility. Not all customers or software applications will benefit from the use of hyperthreading. Go to <http://www.intel.com/technology/hyperthreading/> for more information. Microsoft and Windows are U.S. registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The HP Contact Center is available Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



H

indi matatawaran ang naibigay niyang
inspirasyon sa napakaraming Pilipino.

Hinangaan hindi lang sa kanyang galing
kundi maging sa kanyang
mabuting pakikitungo sa kapwa.

Iginalang... Minahal...

Ang natatanging Da King.

Kakampi.

Kaibigan.

Kapamilya.

Hindi paalam...
Kundi, maraming salamat.

Fernando Poe, Jr.

August 20, 1939 - December 14, 2004

ABS-CBN

HERITAGE PARK
The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country

Trunk Line: (832) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (832) 845-2440

B16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 2004

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way

SUCAT, Parañaque - HOLY CROSS, Novaliches - DASMARIAS, Cavite
Pateros, BULACAN - LILIAN, CEBU - M.A. DAVAO

(832) 845 1875 or 60 ; (832) 893 8274 to 77

OBITUARIES

*"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me."*

With immense grief over the loss of a great man and beloved friend
the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
(PAGCOR)

mourns the passing of

Ramuel K. Agoncillo

Senior Managing Head
Community Relations Department

Who peacefully joined our Creator on December 14, 2004
at the age of 59

The whole PAGCOR Family

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Board of Directors
All officers and staff

Express their most heartfelt condolences to his family
and offer their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His dedication to duty will always be remembered
by the whole PAGCOR family and the countless communities
his extraordinary work has touched

His remains lie at the Agoncillo Room, Funcraria Paz,
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City

Interment will be on Sunday, December 19, 2004, 10 a.m.
At the Manila Memorial Park
Sucat, Parañaque City

In lieu of flowers, donations to the
Alab Ng Puso Foundation will be appreciated.

The Board of Directors,
Management and Staff of

Asia United Bank

condole with the family of

Atty. William T. Chua
Corporate Secretary

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on December 13, 2004 at the age of 49.*

His remains lie in state at Capilla del Señor,
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish,
Forbes Park, Makati City
and will be cremated on Saturday,
December 18, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE: 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax) •
CUBAO: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora) • MAKATI: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370 •
KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342 • MEGAMALL: 635-0219; 635-0220



*An obituary with a picture can
be a fitting tribute to your
departed loved one.*

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate; • Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

*For the needs of your departed Loved Ones,
the following establishments can help you.*

METRO MANILA

• LAS PIÑAS

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Rinal St., Zapote Alibang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507, 873-0624

• MAKATI

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
F. SANTIAGO CHAPELS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3558; 898-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Village, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/39; Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-6228; 852-7264

• MALABON

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

• MANDALUYONG

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
Emel Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

• MANILA

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Orlanpitan St., Marikina, Manila; Tels. 712-5102; 741-5123; Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapa, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 36; 732-4795; 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0887; 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuzoc cor. Loran St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3979; 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540
WEIGHTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Pasco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447

• MARIKINA

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion 1, Marikina City; Tels. 642-8044; 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 648-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tahang, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 96; 941-3678; Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

• PARAÑAQUE

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291; Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 820-1592; 825-9847; 825-9835
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Calimero cor. Monasterio St., Phase 1 BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1378; 825-5682; (0915) 712-1220

• PASAY

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cernadina St. Pasay City; Tels. 891-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Mosque 517-A Amal St., Pasay City; Tels. 631-3797; 944-7846; 845-1801; 845-4836

• PASIG

ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Reynaldo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City; Tels. 747-8598; 747-8809; Telefax 841-1700
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIROQUE
No. 87 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 841-7809; 841-1735

• QUEZON CITY

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Aranales Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Polo St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Aranales Ave. cor. Kibara St., Quezon City; Tels. 745-3808 to 11; 712-3001; 743-8502 or 05
NATIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
254 G. Aranales Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0887; 714-0888
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
295 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5034; 410-9286/87

• TAGUIG-PATEROS

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIROQUE
M. Alameda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 842-3610; 833-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Caledang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 842-8181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayard Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila; Tels. (DL) 845-2941 to 45; (TL) 845-2834 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL

• ALCAY

LIGNON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Buglang Road, Ligonog City; Tels. (052) 820-0185; 0917-2074152

• BACOLOD

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Ground Fl. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandaue City; Tel. 433-7132

• BAGUIO

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
78 Naguigan Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3177

• BATAAN

SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Yellay Road, Balanga City, Bataan; Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911766

• BULACAN

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011, Tels. (044) 784-0281, 678-0268; (0917) 889-0803

• CAVITE

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luna, Iba, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2875
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Toron St., Iba, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 671-1878

• CEBU

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hls, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3182
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Bonifed, Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

• DAVAO

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Cajiao Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

• ILOCOS

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Candelaria St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2780; Cell (0917) 5880136; (0917) 5880145

• LAGUNA

SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Oita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Tels. (049) 637-5652; 531-4142; Fax (049) 631-4382
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Romedio, San Pablo City, Laguna; Tels. (049) 582-1888; 800-2914 Cell No. (0917) 6010963

• PAMPANGA

FUNERARIA PANGULINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lungsod Sur, Angeles City; Tels. (045) 888-2859; (045) 322-8247

• RIZAL

OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 8 Cagayan St., Antipolo City 1870; Tel. No. 897-0782; 897-0026; 890-7428; Fax: 887-2764
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Gutierrez Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal; Tels. 849-3849; 842-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishopper Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal; Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
MARIAH MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcon Highway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 845-1855

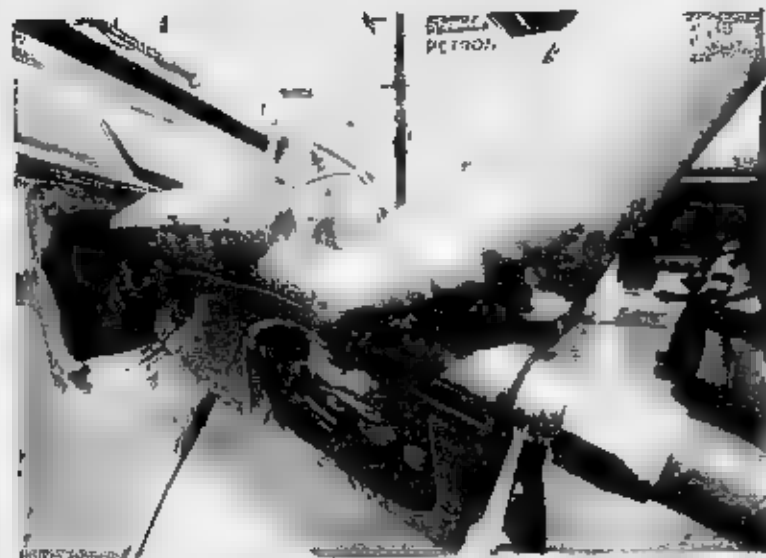
• ZAMBALES

DALLWAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalkidan, Otongapo City; Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1088; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tiburanan, Sta. Rosa, Otongapo; Tel. No. (047) 223-1882



BUSINESS

PTT rolls back gasoline, diesel prices



TARIFF rise seen to counter softening of oil prices.

By Abigail L. Ho

INDEPENDENT oil firm PTT Philippines Corp. yesterday rolled back its pump prices of gasoline and diesel by 50 centavos per liter.

Other oil companies are expected to cut their prices this week or early next week.

The Department of Energy is convinced price reductions are possible in the next several days, as world prices of crude and refined petroleum products continue to soften.

"Current world market prices are much lower now than they were in October. Because of this, we can expect a reduction in pump prices this week or next," Energy Secretary

Vincent Perez said during the launch of the updated Philippine Energy Plan Tuesday evening.

Data from the DOE showed that the benchmark Dubai crude fell to an average of \$33.55 a barrel in the first 13 days of December from \$34.87 a barrel in November.

The price of unleaded gasoline, based on the Mean of Plants Singapore (MOPS), also declined to a month-to-date average of \$45.82 a barrel, significantly lower than the \$52.44 a barrel posted last month.

The price of MOPS-based diesel also dropped to \$50.92 a barrel in the first 13 days of the month, shedding almost \$6 a barrel from last month's average of \$56.02 a barrel.

Perez said the recent announcement of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (Opec) plan to cut production by one million barrels per day starting Jan. 1, 2005 did little to reverse the downtrend.

Prices of crude and petroleum products continued to go down despite the Opec announcement and the other factors that affected world market prices.

But Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association chair Fernando Martinez said current pump prices were not even reflective of the successive international price increases in the past several months.

As this was the case, he said the

likelihood of a rollback was very slim.

Oil firms might not even be able to sustain the current pump prices of the socially sensitive diesel, particularly if global demand would spike in January, he said.

"If world market prices in January will be higher than those in December, we don't know how we'll be able to maintain (current pump prices), especially of diesel. The increase in tariff will also be in effect by Jan. 1, 2005," he told the Inquirer.

The tariff imposed on imported crude and refined petroleum products will go up to 5 percent from the current 3 percent by virtue of an executive order issued in July and a DOE circular issued last month.

Bank lending up 3.6% to P1.5T in Oct.

By Doris C. Dumlaog

LOANS extended by commercial banks in October hit P1.5 trillion, or 3.6 percent higher than year-ago level, mainly due to increased lending to the manufacturing sector, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

It was the eighth straight month that commercial banks posted positive loan growth. The rate of growth, however, was deemed by the BSP as too slow to contribute significantly to the economy.

"The modest growth in bank lending highlights the need to

further improve the health of the banking system to support sustained economic growth," the BSP said.

The year-on-year loan growth in October stood higher than the 1.9 percent growth in the previous month and the 0.8 percent rise posted in October 2003.

On a month-on-month basis, however, total lending dipped by 1.1 percent in October 2004, worse than the 0.7 percent decline in the previous month.

The annual growth in bank loans was fueled by the 17.9-percent rise in loans to the manufac-

turing sector in October, compared to year-ago level.

Other sectors that contributed to the increase in total commercial bank loans were: electricity, gas and water which grew by 11.1 percent; agriculture, fisheries and forestry, 9.7 percent; community, social and personal services, 4.7 percent; and, wholesale and retail trade, 4.0 percent. These increases, however, were offset partly by the contraction in outstanding loans to the other sectors, particularly to the construction industry which fell by 17.9 percent from year-ago level.

There was, likewise, a slow-

down in the loan extension to the following sectors: mining and quarrying (11.3 percent); financial institution, real estate and business services (8.1 percent); and, community, social and personal services (8.2 percent).

The BSP said demand conditions would support a continued improvement in bank lending in the months ahead, especially since the country's real gross domestic product grew by 6.3 percent in the third quarter of 2004 on strong agriculture, industry and services output as well as robust exports and personal consumption spending.

Weak performance of LGUs blamed for poverty in RP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD Bank said the weak performance of local government units—particularly in the areas of governance, delivery of services and revenue generation—was the main reason for poverty in the country as it had hampered development efforts.

World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg said addressing capacity-related problems of LGUs should be at the forefront of the government's poverty alleviation agenda.

Amsberg noted that a number of LGUs were still financially dependent on the national government, which was already heavily burdened by its own fiscal woes.

"Still quite a number of LGUs seem to be falling short of expectations and their potential, and are not taking full responsibility for devolved services," Amsberg said in a speech, which was read by a representative during the Monday assembly of members of the League of Cities of the Philippines.

The national government has already devolved social

services that are local in nature, such as education and community healthcare, to LGUs. Many of them, however, still depend on the national government for funds because they cannot not fully shoulder the cost of such services.

The World Bank official stressed the need to strengthen the financing system of LGUs, suggesting that they should mobilize their own revenue sources to become less dependent on the national government.

"A big number of LGUs still shy from borrowing to finance their programs. The low demand for loans is a result of low LGU revenue base, presence of unregulated grants (including pork barrels), (and) lack of capacity to develop bankable projects," the World Bank official said.

In view of this, Amsberg urged the national government to make the Municipal Finance Corp. (MFC) fully operational to partly address financing-related problems of LGUs. MFC, an agency under the Department of Finance, is tasked to provide credit access to LGUs to finance basic social services and other development projects.

Corn supply seen to tighten in Q1

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY is expected to experience a tight corn supply situation in the first quarter of year 2005 due to the damages inflicted by the four typhoons that hit the northern part of the country and the drought in the south, said Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (Philmaize).

The typhoons damaged some 70,000 hectares of corn farms or 250,000 metric tons of corn.

Philmaize chair Rod Bioco said that more than 50,000 hectares of corn farms in the province of Isabela, a major corn producer,

were destroyed by Typhoon "Yoyong." While in Bukidnon, some 20,000 hectares of corn were also damaged.

Expectations of a tight supply situation have already propped up farmgate prices of the grain. Corn prices range at P8 to P9 per kilo.

"The 50-centavo average increase in the farmgate price is an encouraging development to corn farmers, who are burdened by the rising cost of fertilizers," said Blanco.

The country's corn importation is expected to decline by as much as 50 percent as livestock raisers cut down on production due to the increasing prices of feeds.

SLEX widening starts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PRELIMINARY work on the widening of South Luzon Expressway started last week even before the evaluation of the bids for the contract was completed, said the Philippine National Construction Corp.

PNCC chair Pastor R. Ramos Jr. said in an interview that PNCC had started preparations for the construction of an additional lane on each side of SLEX.

The additional lanes would eat up part of the center portion of the SLEX, which separates the northbound lanes from the southbound lanes.

Ramos, who is also PNCC's acting president and chief executive, added that a bid committee was now studying technical proposals for the P10-billion project, which also covers the rehabilitation of

the Alabang viaduct.

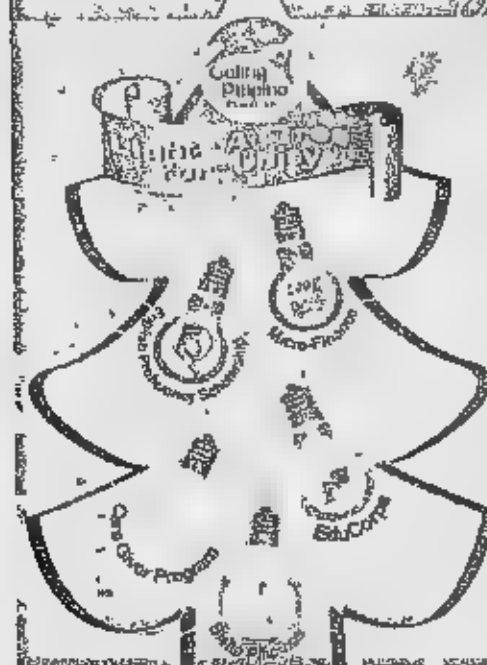
"The schedule for the opening of the second envelope or the financial proposal would depend on when the committee would finish the evaluation of the technical proposals," the official said.

Ramos said PNCC was open to the participation of Hopewell Crown Infrastructure Inc.—its partner in the South Luzon Tollways Corp.—in the project but it should first show that it had the financial resources to do so.

It was reported earlier that 10 construction firms had expressed interest in bidding for the SLEX project. These included PF Cruz, Cavite Ideal, EC de Luna Construction Corp., J Payara Construction Corp., Ciraco Corp., Chua State Engineering Corp., William Uy Construction Corp., Dimson Manila, RV Polcarpio and Co., CM Pancho Construction.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Making Christmas Make a Difference



UNIQUE and heartwarming Galing Pilipino traditions support the claim that the Philippines could very well be the "Christmas capital of the world". After all, Christmas is celebrated for the longest period here and is marked by the biggest gift giving and shopping per capita, despite the poverty incidence. To blazon this spirit of generosity, the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) will spearhead this celebration through three (3) trailblazing activities:

- **Light-a-Tree-for-Unity:** a special fund-raising drive for the benefit of nation-building causes using giant 20-foot Christmas trees and colored light bulbs as the medium of donation. The main PGP Trees display will be at the Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz Park in Luneta.

- **Fund-raising for Other Causes:** tree sponsors donate P150,000 while bulb donations are at P150 each. This fund drive empowers the donors to choose the cause they want to support. GPM does not earn from this activity. Proceeds from the donated trees and bulbs will be earmarked for five na-

tion-building causes that promote admirable Pilipino values such as world-renowned hospitality, industriousness, competence, compassion, and volunteerism.

- **Pamaskong Alay sa Mundo, Galing sa Pilipino:** The First Lighting of PGP trees take place on Dec 16, 2004. Opening with a mini-concert at 6 p.m., Filipinos here and abroad will unite in singing "Pasko Na Naman" at 7 p.m. Manila time. A prayer for the nation and for world peace will be said after that Christmas serenade to the world.

A showcase of the *bayanihan* spirit, which started in December 2003, GPM intends to make it better this year, with its GPM youth arm in the forefront of a dynamic effort in rebuilding this nation. Due to the earnest desire of GPM members and supporters in Cebu, Davao and Butuan to participate in this noble undertaking, similar PGP trees will be likely on display in these areas with simultaneous First Lighting program done in similar bayanihan style of celebration.

PAMASKONG GALING PILIPINO 2004

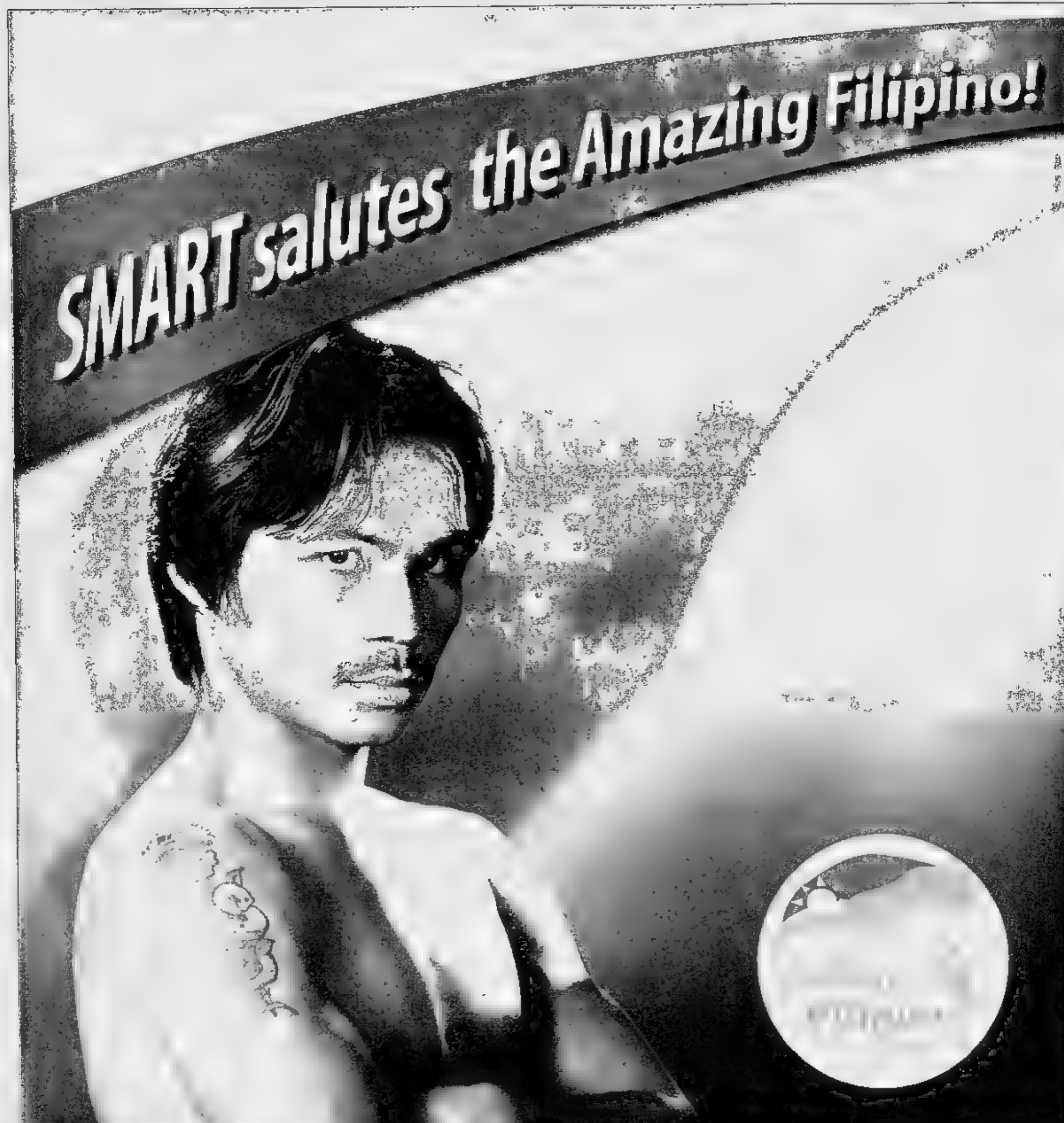
**Light-a-Tree for Unity
Opening Night**

December 16, 2004, Thursday, 6PM
Blessed San Lorenzo Ruiz Park, Luneta

PROGRAMME

Doxology by the Marikina Dance Guild
Pambansang Awit by VSE Productions of Bulacan
Opening Message by GPM President Ely de Guzman
Performance by the UP Manila Chorus
PASKO NA NAMAN
Presentation of Pamaskong Galing Pilipino Causes
Performance by the Masterpiece Choir
Lighting of Pamaskong Galing Pilipino Trees
With the Special Participation of
Ilac Diaz & Chin Chin Gutierrez
Fireworks Display
Finale

Bayanihan Picnic at the Park follows. Bring sparklers to light up as we sing.



Like Manny Pacquiao, our boxing hero, SMART sees the potential in all of us — in our own way we can be heroes, too. SMART invites you to support the Galing Pilipino Movement and their unique fundraiser called Pamaskong Galing Pilipino 2004.

To promote your chosen cause text <ur chosen color> and send to 2456. Please use the list below to guide you.

Caregiver Program for the Abandoned and the Elderly

English Proficiency Scholarship for Public School Students and Teachers

Micro-Finance Fund for Community-based enterprises

Blue to promote Volunteerism
EduCorps. Logistical Support Fund for Volunteer Teachers and Community Workers

Bisita Pilipinas, an eco-agro tourism based community enterprise, creating a bed & breakfast trade to highlight what is unique and excellent in chosen Filipino communities

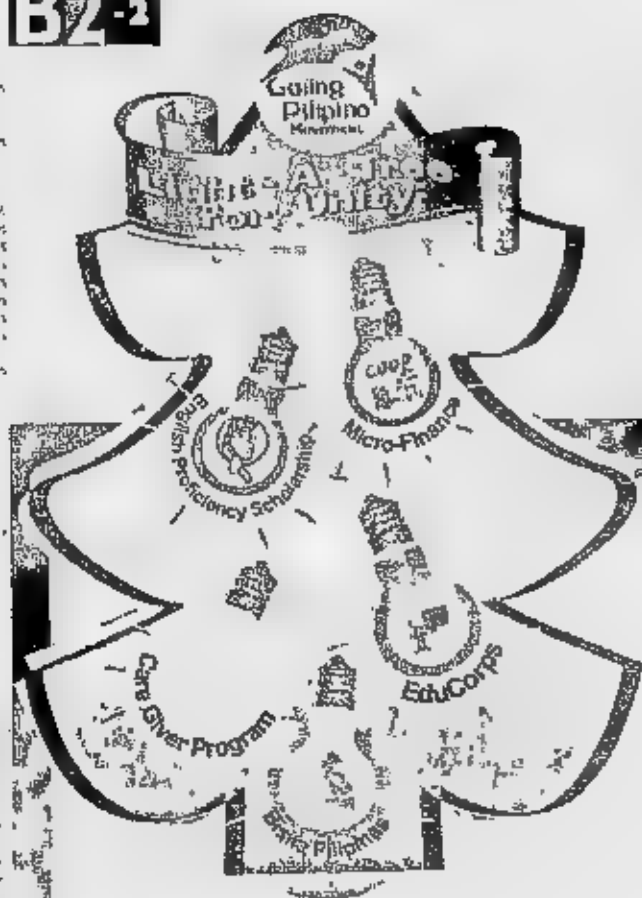
To download a Christmas ringtones, text GP PASKO to 2456.

For SMART Buddy, SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, and SMART Buddy subscribers: Standard Service cost P39.00. SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, and SMART Buddy subscribers: Standard Service cost P39.00. Text messages cost P2.50 each. Info on demand for all services: Addict Mobile at P10.00; Addict Mobile at P2.50.

For SMART Buddy, SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, and SMART Buddy subscribers: Standard Service cost P39.00. SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, and SMART Buddy subscribers: Standard Service cost P39.00. Text messages cost P2.50 each. Info on demand for all services: Addict Mobile at P10.00; Addict Mobile at P2.50.



Galing Pilipino



The Galing Pilipino Movement is a non-profit organization that aims to recognize, affirm and propagate what is good and excellent about being Pilipino.

Fired up from the recent Galing Pilipino Young Leaders Camp, the youth of our nation are raring to build their future by mobilizing resources to re-build the lives of the needy through Pamaskong Galing Pilipino 2004.

Presenting Light-a-Tree-for-Unity. A special fund raising drive for the benefit of nation-building causes.

BIGYANG LIWANAG ANG KANILANG MUNDO

At the Blessed San Lorenzo Ruiz Park in Luneta, special 20' Christmas trees will be displayed from Dec. 16, 2004 to Jan. 2, 2005. Companies or individuals can either sponsor a tree for P150,000 or donate a bulb for P150. Proceeds will be given to the causes that donors expressly choose to support.

- **Yellow** - Bisita Pilipinas: Eco-Agro Tourism-based Community Development
- **Red** - English Proficiency Scholarships for Public School Teachers and Students
- **Green** - Micro-Finance Fund for Local Community Micro-Enterprises
- **Blue** - EduCorps: Logistical Support Fund for Volunteer Teachers and Community Workers who will lead the Bisita Pilipinas program
- **White** - Care-Giver Giver Centers that will develop Local Nursing Homes for the Abandoned and the Elderly.

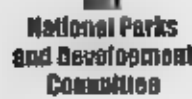
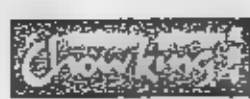
SAMA-SAMA NATIN GAWING MAKULAY ITONG PASKO!

The lighting of the trees will truly be an enriching celebration that will bring together Pilipinos here and abroad. On Dec. 16, 2004 at 7 p.m. Manila time, the ceremonial first lighting of these trees will be done as all participants unite in singing "Pasko Na Naman" and in saying a prayer for peace and goodwill.

Light a tree for unity. Light a bulb for a worthy cause.
Light up the future of the Young. Make your Christmas make a difference!

BE PART OF PAMASKONG GALING PILIPINO 2004.

GPM Event Sponsors



no, Nagniningning



GPM Board of Trustees:

Erly B. De Guzman
Ramon F. Garcia
Akiko N. Thomson
Bernido H. Liu
Bienvenido C. Niles, Jr.
Cristino L. Panlilio
Pedro E. Roxas
Diosdado C. Salvador

GPM Foundation Inc.

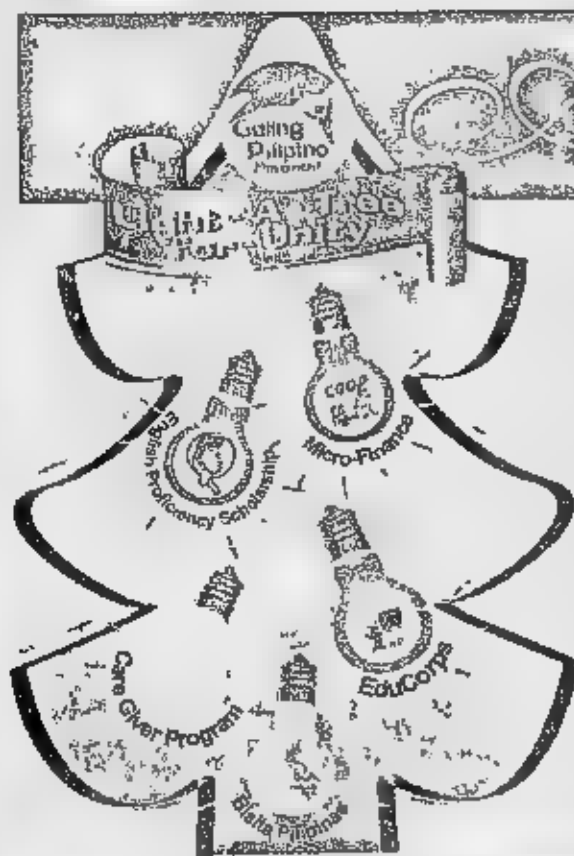
Unit 252 Cityland Pioneer
Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City
Tel. (+632) 631 3932
Telefax. (+632) 633 1089
E-mail: galing.phils@pacific.net.ph
Website: www.galingpilipino.com

Makibahagi sa Pamaskong Galing Pilipino!

GPM Coordinating Centers:

GPM Butuan City
C/o Karaga Fashion Center
1329 J.C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City
Tel. (085) 341 8937
GPM Cebu City
C/o 7Arts Foto Center
Legazpi Street, Cebu City
(032) 255 4414

GPM Davao City
C/o New World Travel Corporation
2/F Victoria Plaza, J.P. Laurel Avenue,
Davao City
Tel. (082) 221 6351; 222 0139



THE JOY of giving never fails to radiate from Pilipino hearts at Christmas time, despite economic hardship, political strife and debilitating calamities that beset us in the past. The recent typhoons evoke once again that noble giving character of the Pilipino evidenced by the proliferation of flood relief drives and mercy missions. In like spirit, the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) takes on the challenge of making Christmas 2004 a meaningful celebration that will contribute to actually re-building our nation.

Accenting our unique and heartwarming traditions constitute Pamaskong Pilipino. Addressing the challenge of the times by drawing out and drawing from what is good and excellent in

Pilipinos is what Pamaskong Galing Pilipino (PGP) is all about. PGP 2004 invites Pilipinos to contribute to nation-building by participation and donation. Twenty-foot Christmas trees and colored light bulbs serve as the medium of donation. Attendance in key events, promotional networking and volunteer service are the avenues of participation.

The Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) formally launches the Pamaskong Galing Pilipino 2004 today, Dec. 16—the first day of our traditional Simbang Gabi. The Light-a-Tree-for-Unity project is a GPM-led fund raising drive that will mobilize resources to benefit five nation-building causes that highlight strong Pilipino values, as follows: (Their Bulb Color, Pilipino Values and Proposed Cause)

YELLOW - Hospitality - Bisita Pilipinas: an eco-agro tourism-based community enterprise that will spur a bed-and-breakfast homestay program, exhibiting what is unique and excellent in the locale

RED - Competence - English Proficiency Scholarships for Public School Teachers and Students

GREEN - Industriousness - Micro-Finance Fund for Community-based Enterprises that will support the Bisita Pilipinas program in the locale

BLUE - Volunteerism - Logistical Support Fund for EduCorps, Volunteer GPM Members who will serve Teachers and Community Workers

WHITE - Compassion - Care Giver Centers or Nursing Homes for the Elderly and Abandoned Kids

Sponsorship of 20-foot Christmas trees are at P150,000 whereas colored light bulbs are at P150 each. There are approximately 250-300 bulbs per tree. These PGP trees will be on display at the Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz Park in Luneta from Dec. 16, 2004 to Jan. 2, 2005

The First Lighting of the Trees will happen at 7 p.m. Manila Time on Dec. 16. This special event will be enhanced by the singing of the OPM carol, "Pasko Na Naman by Pilipinos" here and abroad as our Pamaskong Alay sa Mundo, Galing sa Pilipino. GPM envisions Pilipinos united in prayer and praise for the nation and for world peace at this "sacred" time. This ceremony will take place simultaneously in different participating areas including Cebu, Davao and Butuan in the Philippines.

The bayanihan spirit permeates this project undertaking. The Luneta venue is courtesy of the National Parks Development Committee of the DOT. Meralco provides the electricity for the Christmas trees. The Plaza at the Penthouse Tekit Tower hosted the Launch Press Conference. DDB Philippines prepared the theme ads and supplement design. At the opening ceremony on Dec. 16, the Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (Asap) developed the program, with Selco providing the staging, lights and sounds. K-mayan will provide barbecue for guests. Scan Livingston Graphics created the signages. Gobo provides cyber lights. Major sponsors include Chowking, SMART, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which supported this supplement.

Pamaskong Galing Pilipino 2004 principally aims to harness goodwill and direct media focus to the more positive and constructive side of nation-building. This meaningful coming together of a different kind of Christmas celebration could very well be a defining moment that will rally Pilipinos, here and abroad, to strengthen the bayanihan spirit that will enable our country to face the challenges of 2005 with faith and conviction. The coming year will see GPM in dynamic collaboration with other social development organizations who are actively involved in these causes and in implementing these programs in key areas nationwide.

Deposit your donations at any Union Bank branch

GPM Foundation Inc,
CA 00-001-008201-3.

For other details, call 633 1089; 631 3932, text 0919-3792466 / 0917 835 4829; email galing.phils@pacific.net.ph or log on to <http://www.galingpilipino.com>

Pasiklabin natin ang Galing ng Pilipino ngayong Pasko

Text to Donate!

Support the Pamaskong Galing Pilipino causes:

Text GR send to 2456, then text <your preferred color> to denote the cause you want to support

Text GP<space>on, send to 2456 to subscribe to daily GP inspirations

Text GP<space>pasko, send to 2456 to download Pasko Na Naman ringtone

Awesome!

happee Explosive Menthol Red

happee Fresh Green Outburst

Fresh. Clean. Awesome Happee Smile!

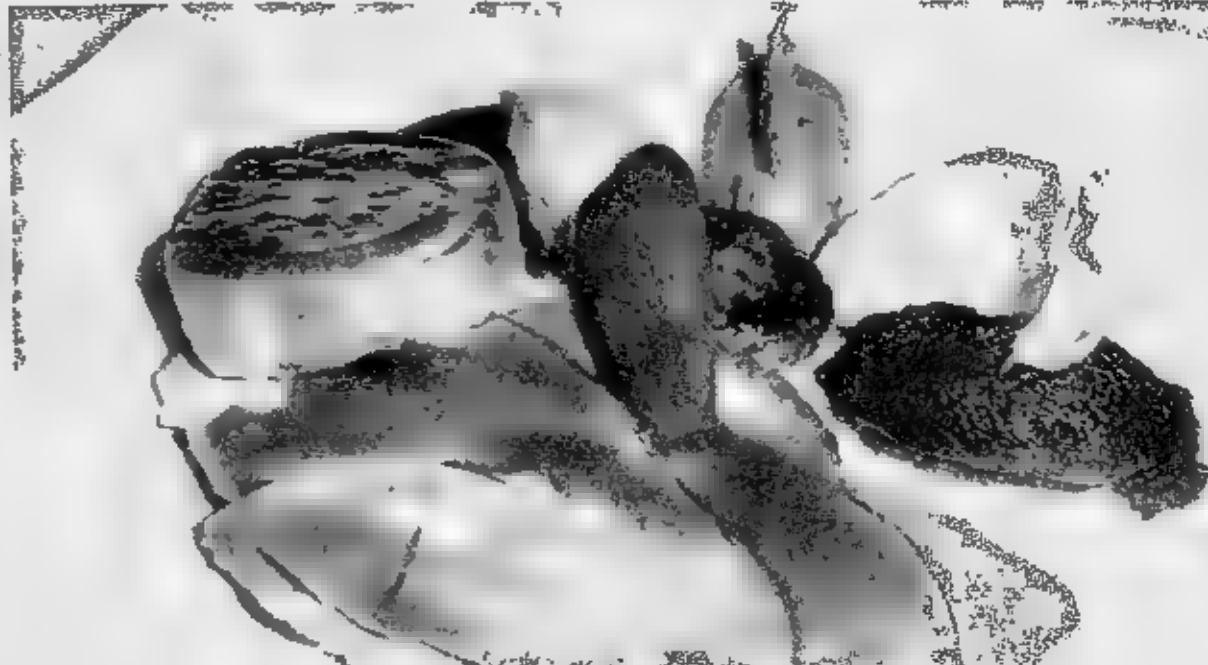
LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.phText us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

MURPHY
Lobster with
Citrus FoamFARMER'S
Turkey

A royal Christmas menu

THESE are things I consider priceless. Good food and wonderful company are at the top of my list. On Nov. 26, my stars were aglow as I found myself enjoying both.

I was at the Intercon's Prince Albert to sample Chef Cyrille Soenen's Christmas menu. Cyrille says it was inspired by "of course, Christmas, my country, family reunions/traditions (in this case the Christmas pudding and Stollen) and, yes, the season of winter. I use a lot of ingredients that are at their best during the month of December—chestnuts, oysters, duck liver, flounder and turkey. In Europe, we eat turkey at Christmas time."

Whether it is that time of year or not, this man has a way of creating edible masterpieces with the textures, flavors and colors so vibrant, so alive. This is the kind of talent that sets this dear friend of mine apart from the rest.

That evening was one of gastronomic pleasure. And, just as he has done for many years, Chef Cyrille once again made my dining experience at the Prince Albert feel like the night before Christmas.

Christmas menu

Appetizer

Crispy Lobster with Foam of Citrus Emulsion, Pan-fried Duck Liver, Salad of Shiitake Confit and Green Apple, Hazelnut Oil

Soup

Parmentier of Sweet Potatoes with Truffle Duck Liver Ravioli; Creamy Prawns Broth; Oysters Blanc Manger

Fish

Braised Flounder with Cauliflower Velouté; Tartare of Soft Boiled Egg; Beluga Caviar; Roasted Sea Bass with Ragout of Mussels and Clams; Smoke Vegetables Enchilade

Meat

Farmer's Turkey; Traditional Style Roasted Prime Rib of Beef; Yorkshire Pudding; Baked Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables; Roasted Lamb Loin; Crusted Fine Herb Mouseline with Chestnut and Mushroom

Dessert

Christmas Pudding, Ginger Sauce; Pan-fried Stollen with Burnt Orange Sauce Brandy Egg Nog Ice cream

This Christmas menu will only be available

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras



on the evening of the 24th and for lunch and dinner on the 25th.

And as if Christmas dinner isn't enough, the Prince Albert is also doing a December Foie Gras promotion. It's *foie gras* all the way, from appetizer to main course!

I highly recommended this one and I'll do this over and over and over again. Delicious!

My favorites: Duck Liver Terrine, Mango Compote & Crispy Ginger Bread; Cream of Cepes Mushroom with Duck Liver Ravioli; Roasted Sea Bass and Duck Liver soufflé, Pricassee of Mushroom and Asparagus, Port Wine Sauce; Beef Tournedos Rossini with Creamy Truffle Mashed Potatoes.

I would like to make creme brulee for Christmas. Is it difficult?

Mia Antonio

It's the easiest thing to make. Follow the recipe and you'll be making it like a pro. If by some stroke of luck it doesn't turn out well, there is still hope.

As I always say in class, if you can't make this, maybe cooking is not for you and you might want to change careers... Singing, sewing and pottery might be better options! Kidding!

The best part about creme brulee is the gadget called a torch. Goudo's and Chef's Nook have them!

9 egg yolks
1/2 c sugar
2 c cream (Elle & Vire, President)
1 vanilla bean, split (Santitas) or 1 tsp vanilla extract

1/3 c granulated white sugar (to sprinkle over the top before torching)

• Preheat oven to 300°F
Combine cream and vanilla bean and let sit for 2 hours. If using extract, skip this procedure and move on to step 3.

• In a bowl, whisk egg yolks and sugar until sugar dissolves and mixture is thick and pale yellow.

Add cream and vanilla, whisk until blended.

• Strain and skim.
• Divide into ramekins.

Bake in water bath until slightly set. It should still wiggle a bit in the center. I usually do mine 40-50 minutes.

• Remove from oven and leave in water bath until cool.

• Chill before serving.

• When ready to serve, sprinkle sugar over each custard and blow torch to caramelize.

Serve with fresh fruits/berries.

I entertain a lot during the holidays. My problem is I buy a lot of fresh thyme and rosemary for cooking but I never seem to finish a whole pack from Antonio's. I don't like using them once dry. What else could I do with them? Sayang naman to throw them away.

L. Dans

Kudos to you for using no less than fresh herbs for cooking! Since you entertain a lot, this tip might come in handy. In Europe, my friends

and classmates used to snip off the leaves from both thyme and rosemary, put them in their ash trays and let the smokers burn the herbs away. I swear that this is about the only time you'd be happy to have smokers around! It just smells so good!

Another nifty idea is to wrap them in tissue paper and put them inside mini cotton pouches which you slip under your sheets, duvet covers, pillow cases and even your closet. They're great as added foliage to your centerpieces. Not only are they visually pretty, their scent lends a festive flair to your table as well.

For questions, comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

CHRISTMAS
Pudding

CHEF Cyrille Soenen

FAT-WORRY FREE CHRISTMAS!

FOR ONLY

P40

PER DAY

on Full Fitness Programmes

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.

0% INTEREST.

NO MONTHLY DUES!

NO JOINING FEES!

Only for callers today.

OTHER PROGRAMMES AND TREATMENTS

JO DYNAMICS
Our medically proven
air burning system
releases especially to
give you the type of
body you've always
wanted.

PERSONAL TRAINING
One-on-one
supervision
towards a
great body.

**PERMANENT LASER
HAIR REMOVAL**
At the
lowest
price
in the
Philippines

**BODY SCRUB &
MILK BATH**
A pampering and exfoliating
treatment that leaves you
refreshingly clean.

AQUAMID BOTOX RESTYLANE PERLANE ULTRAPEEL FACIAL
LASER ACNE TREATMENT WART REMOVAL NUTRACELL-FACE

HOTLINES:
FITNESS 8873533 MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS
SKIN 8871331 MOBILE 09164099312 (75466377)

CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemma/Breezy 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Sherry/Bhong 365-7653
CEBU Ramil 231-3254
GREENHILLS Bianca 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani 893-8935
MALATE Daisy 536-0619

MEGAMALL Sheila/Jenny 631-3869
PASAY RD Chor/Maan 887-1335
Pasay Rd telephone 09178515920
PASKI Joe/Mutter 681-5333
SM NORTH M tch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Ito 814-0138

SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750560/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09182112732
MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASKI 6473814/09275341314

GUSTO MO NA BANG LUMPAD?

Join the fun and excitement of the new year!

Call 751-8000 to apply.

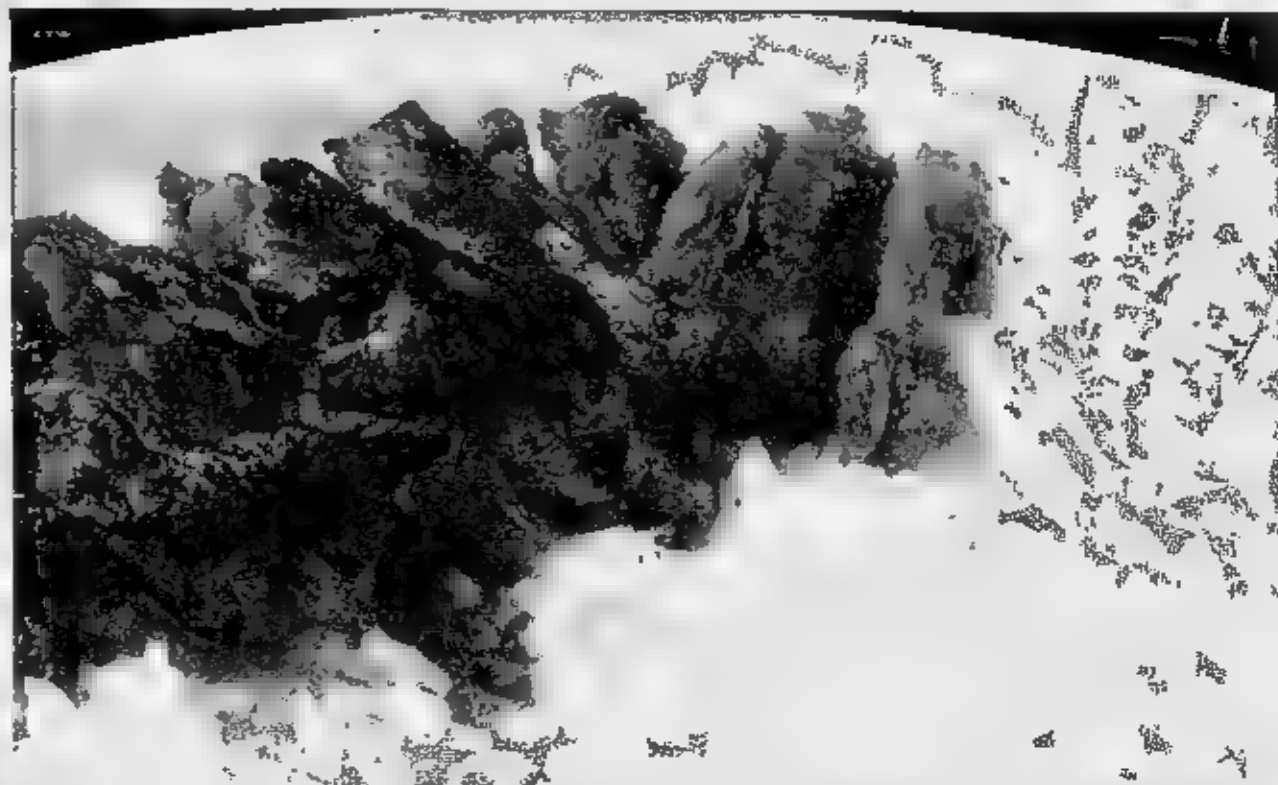
Sponsored by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

HSBC

The world's local bank



AVAILABLE every hour of the day are Snow Floats—soft drinks topped with a scoop of soft-serve ice cream; regular Sundaes in vanilla; Special Sundaes drizzled with Chocolate or Strawberry syrup; and colorful Rainbow Twists—soft-serve ice cream topped with Ube, Strawberry, Corn, Chocolate and Bubble Gum flavors



MINISTOP breakfast means cups of hot coffee and a choice of Beef Tapa, Pork Tocino or Longanisa.



THE BUSY mom can get microwaveable meals like Liempo, Menudo and Chicken Pork Adobo, as well as Japanese favorites like Katsudon and Shrimp Tempura.



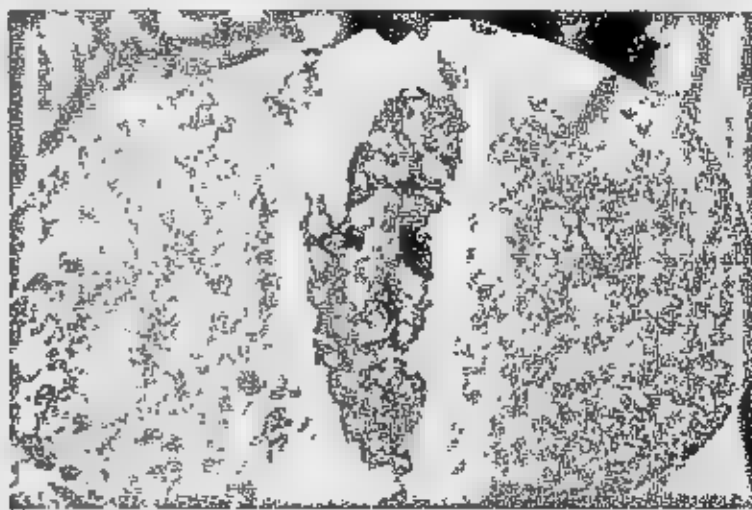
THOSE who prefer Chinese can get Crispy Wonton, Pork Siomai and Siopao with bola-bola and asado fillings.

Comfort food 24/7

Filipinos are big on food. Whatever time of day it is, there's a reliable stop in your neighborhood that will answer the grumblings of your tummy. Ministop combo-store has comfort food to satisfy the cravings of everyone, 24 hours a day. Check out some of its mouthwatering choices on this page.



PASTA lovers will be able to get Spaghetti Carbonara, Lasagna and Baked Macaroni for a filling snack or a light meal.



A MINISTOP bestseller is the Japanese-inspired Karimman (it means "crunchy bread"), a bun filled with chicken, barbecue, tuna or pork asado.



HAVE large, crispy chicken pieces with a cup of steaming rice for a quick filling lunch.

The bright and lively colors of Christmas aren't just limited to the trinkets on our trees, the kaleidoscopic lights of our lanterns, nor the wrapping papers of our gifts.

Colors of Christmas

They can be found on our dining tables too!

At the Manila Pavilion Hotel, Christmas is made even merrier with these appetizingly colorful offerings.

Cafe Coquella

Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet
December 24, 2004
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Christmas Day Brunch
December 25, 2004
10:30 am - 3:00 pm

New Year's Eve Buffet
December 31, 2004
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

New Year's Day Brunch
January 1, 2005
10:30 am - 3:00 pm

Buffet Prices:
P325++ (kids 12 years old below)
P650++ Adult

Pavilion Court

Zheng Tan Kwei Lok (Christmas Eve Buffet)
December 24, 2004
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
P750++ per person

Sin Ni Kwei Lok (New Year's Eve Buffet)
December 31, 2004
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
P750++ per person

Rotisserie

Christmas Eve Special Set Menu
December 24, 2004
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Set Menu 1
P750++ per person

Set Menu 21
P950++ per person

Patisserie

Take Home Tinsel Treats
December 1 - 31, 2004

Local Holiday Flavors
December 1 - 31, 2004

Christmas Hampers
December 1 - 31, 2004

Deluxe : P3,220 net
Premium : P5,439 net

For inquiries and reservations, please call 526-1212 extension 2408.

WATERFRONT
HOTELS & CASINO

MANILA PAVILION

United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila
Tel (63-2) 526-1212 Fax (63-2) 526-2552
net: www.manilapavilion.com.ph

Healthy cooking needs right cookware

COOKING healthy means more than just using the right ingredients and methods, it also means using a special kind of cookware.

Tefal's new Vitaly Range may have the correct cookware for this purpose.

The Meat Grill Pan has deep-ribbed interiors that collect the fat and leave it in the pan. High walls limit grease splashes.

The Fish Grill Pan has an oval shape and is shallow to make it easy to slide the fish off to a plate easily. Low grill lines minimize breaking.

The Wok Pan is for stir-frying side dishes

and garnitures. Its 24-cm diameter is good for about two portions of vegetables, to go with meat or fish.

All items have Tefal's signature "thermospot" feature, which seals in the flavors of the food and indicates the precise time for cooking.

They are also non-stick, with convenient "stay cool" handles and are coated inside and out to make cleaning easy.

Tefal is available in leading supermarket and department stores nationwide. It is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp.

Call 8909703.

Add a super gift box to your party fare

SUPER Bowl of China offers the Super Gift Box containing a 2.75-k whole suckling pig complete with hoisin sauce or a 1.75-k whole roast duck with plum sauce.

The suckling pig or roast duck, two of the most popular dishes from Super Bowl of China, is sure to be a welcome addition to any Christmas party, reunion, homecoming and special family meals.

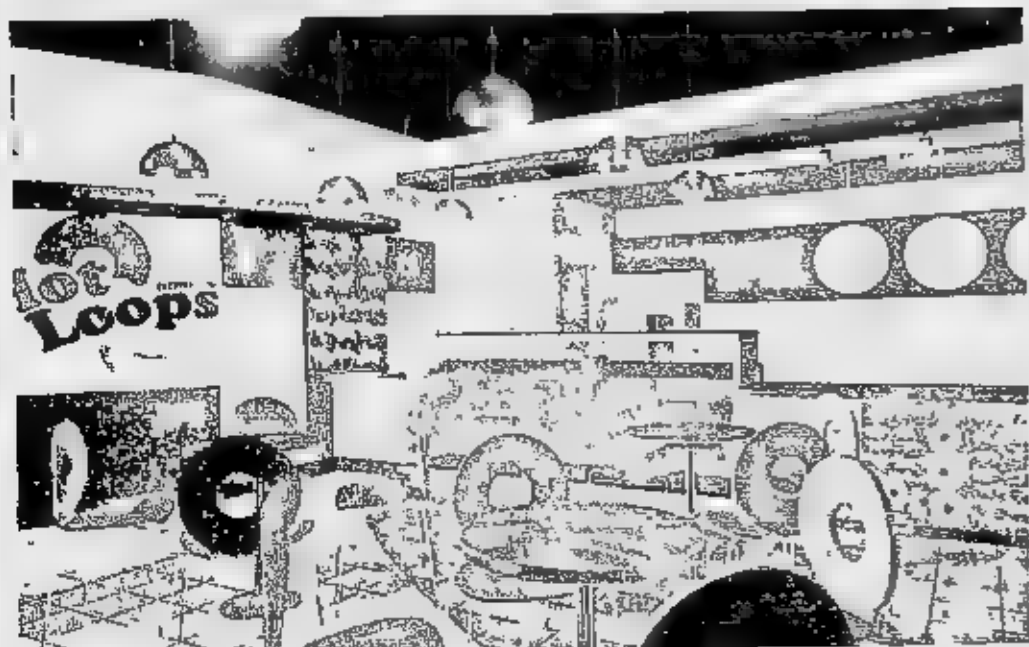
Call 7472845 or 7472048. Order should be placed at least two days in advance.

Super Bowl of China branches are at the Megastrip, SM Megamall; Jupiter Street in Bel-Air, Makati; Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; Chefs Avenue in Festival Mall, Alabang; 2/L, SM City North Edsa; Eastwood City Walk 2, Libis; and G/F, SM Fairview. Soon to open is Super Bowl of China in Greenhills, San Juan.

Visit www.superbowl.com.ph



SUPERBOWL of China's Super Gift Box. Roast Duck



THE STORE'S colorful interior is as tempting as the Hot Loops donut line.

Hot donuts for the family

A LINE-UP of tempting tastes and sweet surprises was unveiled to the public as Hot Loops Donuts opened its first dine-in shop last Dec. 12 at the annex of Robinsons Place Pioneer in Mandaluyong City.

Owned and operated by JG Summit Holdings Inc. (JGSHI), Hot Loops Donuts brings to the fore an all-time favorite treat, sold at a price that is easy on the pocket.

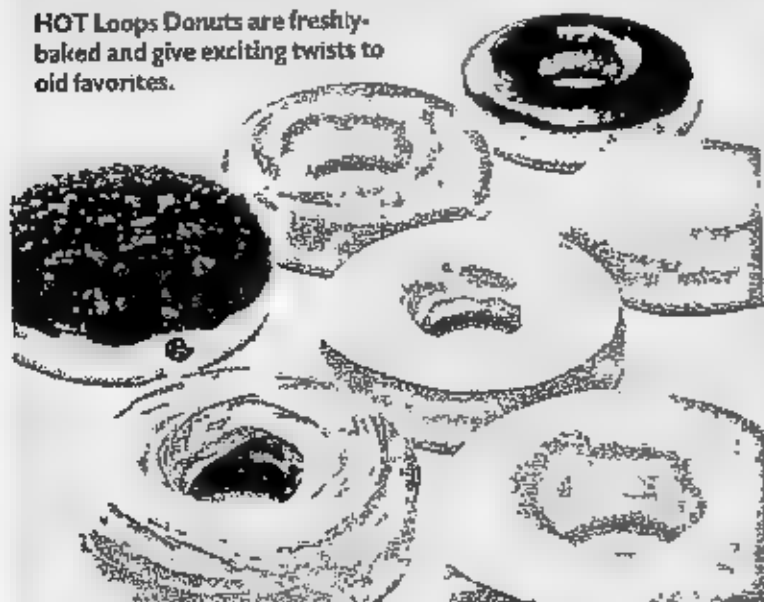
Hot Loops is also set to open a second branch in Robinsons Galleria. Very soon, it will also make its goodies available in Robinsons Supermarkets and Big R outlets across the metropolis.

For its dine-in shops, the donuts are baked

in plain sight inside the store. They come in an assortment of flavors—the classics, which include Choco-Lickery, Strawberry Good, Strawberry-Filled Forever and Bavarian Dream, are combined with novel, exciting varieties such as Peanut Butter, Caramel-in-your-Mouth, Choco Caramel Crunch, Choco-Nutty Rush, Original Sin (Apple Cinnamon), Cheesecake and Vanilla Crumble.

Swathed in lively red, green and creamy yellow gold, embellished with hanging lamps as well as donut-shaped chairs, the Hot Loops shop is reflective of the brand's wholesome, fun, dynamic and rather avant-garde personality.

HOT Loops Donuts are freshly-baked and give exciting twists to old favorites.



**SAY
GOODBYE
TO
DARK
SCAR
FOREVER!**

Call 02-8158319
02-8158302
0917-5781955



Sea Lion



Real Sea Lion



Subic Bay Freeport Zone Tel: (047) 252-9000 • Manila Sales & Ticket Office: (02) 633-4185 • Tickets at all Ticketworld outlets • www.oceanadventure.com.ph
WHALES/DOLPHIN SHOW • SWIM/WHALEDRIVE WITH THE WHALES • SEA LION SHOW • SEA LION PHOTO ENCOUNTER • DISCOVERY AQUARIUM • WILDLIFE IN NEED RESCUE CENTER

Arrivals

1906	MADRID	11 ³⁰	DELAYED
------	--------	------------------	---------

822	HONGKONG	11 ⁴⁵	DELAYED
-----	----------	------------------	---------

1701	NEW YORK	11 ²⁰	DELAYED
------	----------	------------------	---------

911-11-11	PIZZAHUT	11 ¹¹	ON TIME
-----------	----------	------------------	---------

071	PARIS	11 ²⁵	DELAYED
-----	-------	------------------	---------

743	AMSTERDAM	11 ⁵⁰	DELAYED
-----	-----------	------------------	---------



HATE THE WAIT?



LIFESTYLE

Special menu for the holidays

JADE Garden Cantonese Restaurant offers One Christmas Feast set menu for 12 persons. The menu includes Roasted Meat Combination, Yang Chow Hot and Sour Seafood Soup, Steamed Pink Lapu-lapu with Golden Ham, Fried Pigeons marinated in wine, Sautéed Pacific Clams with Black Mushrooms, Braised Lamb and Beancurd Stick in Hot Pot, Chiu Chow Salted Pork Fried Rice, Prawns with Efu Noodles and Hot Red Beans Puree and Fried Sweet Min. Buns.

The restaurant also features A Merry Budget Party Offer set menu. This includes Kuchay Roll with Seaweed, Sweet Corn with Fresh Chicken Soup, Roast Chicken, Sweet and Sour Pork, Fish Fillet with Bittermelon in Tausi Sauce, Young Chow Fried Rice, Braised Efu, Noodles with Mushrooms, Chilled Almond Jelly and Iced Lemon Tea. This offer must have a minimum 10 tables (120 persons). Jade Garden is located at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 8922314/8922535.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel presents Pargoon Kita Food Festival, until Dec. 18 at Cafe Coquilla. Fea-

tured dishes of Palo, Loyte are Grilled Scallops with Herbs and Butter Sauce, Kinlaw nga Tangigwa, Samar Chicken Galantina, Shrimp and Pomelo Salad, Baked Mussels and Chargrilled Milkfish wrapped in banana leaves. Call 5261212

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Benjarong Royal Thai restaurant presents Thai Holiday Delight set menu on Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2005. A complimentary glass of wine will be given to all diners availing of the set menu on the said dates. Diners on New Year's Eve get free noise makers for the New Year's Eve countdown at Fiesta San Miguel. Call 8673333 local 3351-3353.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel cooks up a feast on Dec. 24 and 25 at The Grill. The buffet spread features Turkey Salad with Mango, Grapes and Walnuts, Smoked Salmon on Herbed Pancake, New Zealand Mussels with Sun Dried Tomatoes and Cucumber Salsa, Shrimp Cocktail, Calamari Crunch, Lamb Chops with Minted Hollandaise Sauce, Grilled Blue Marlin with Lemon Herbed

Sauce, Chili Crab, Pastel de Lengua, Paella a la Valenciana, Roast Turkey with Chestnut Stuffing and Cranberry Sauce, Festive Lechon, Roast Prime Rib of Beef with Peppercorn Sauce and Christmas Ham Leg Glazed with Honey and Pineapple.

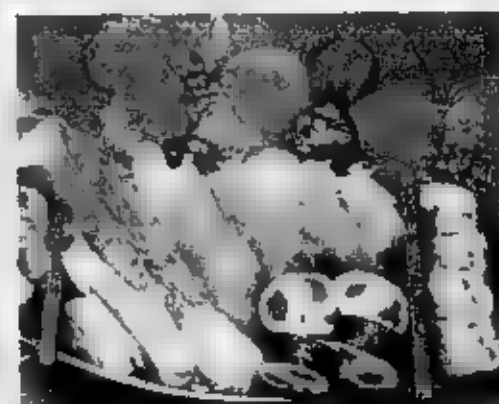
OUTBACK Restaurant offers Lamb Rack, Aussie Strip and Alaskan King Crab Legs to make your holiday meal more delightful. Also try New Zealand eight-bone 16-oz Lamb Rack. Outback Restaurants are located at Glorietta IV, Libis and Alabang Town Center.

SULO Hotel's Diwata Cocktail Lounge presents Barchow. It offers Gambas ala Jillo, Calamares, Tenderloin Tips and Chicken Liver wrapped in Bacon. Call 9245051 to 71

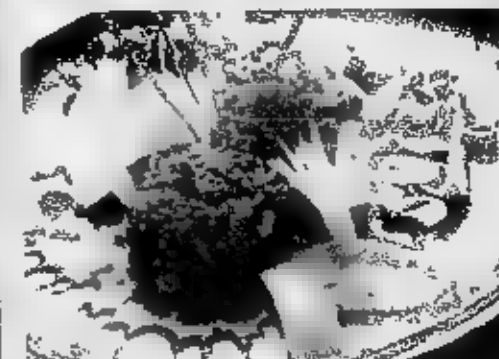
GYOZATEI Authentic Japanese Dumplings offers Grilled Pork Belly and Chicken Wings, Grilled Asparagus wrapped in Bacon, Grilled Fish, Tempura and Teppanyaki. Gyozaitei is located at Morato Square cor. Tomas Morato and Scout Madriñan, QC. Call 9253923.



PEKING Garden Chinese Restaurant features a Christmas set menu for 12. This includes Peking Duck, Mashed Spinach with Scallop and Fish Potage, Seafood Mashed Taro Roll with Crispy Vegetables, Steamed Lapu-lapu in Hot Chili Sauce, Stewed Tientsin Cabbage with Superior Squash Soup, Deep-fried Peppercorn Crabs, Braised E-fu Noodles with Scrambled Mushrooms and Coconut Custard. Peking Garden is located at 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 8179066/ 67.



KIMPURA showcases a double treat for Christmas diners. One Christmas Boat features Fresh Cold Prawns, Omelet Roll, California Roll Special, Big Roll and Oyster Fries. A Feast for 4 has Miso Soup, California Roll Special, Shrimp Tempura, Chicken Teriyaki, Tonkatsu, Sukiyaki Steak with Beansprouts, Kimpura Fried Rice and Coffee Jelly. Kimpura is located at Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, tels. 7218816/ 7218869; and 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati, tels. 8932387/ 8924456.



BLUE Bacon and Green Eggs Restaurant features Tenderloin of Beef with Blue Cheese and Herb Crust, Broiled Fillet of Lapu-lapu with Tomatoes, Anchovies and Garlic, Whole Egg Pasta with Peas, Smoked Salmon and Capers, Angel Meringue with Fruits, Crab and Wild Mushroom Chowder, Mixed Green Salad with Pears, Walnuts and Blue Cheese. Call 7268054/ 7212717.

Fastfood chain offers milk to kids

KIDS can have Anchor Full Cream Milk when they visit KFC.

Every order of the KFC Chuckie Meal comes with a free Astroboy toy and Anchor Milk in chocolate flavor, the first and only chocolate-flavored full cream milk available today.

That is two-in-one goodness of nutritious milk in a delicious choco flavor.

Anchor two-in-one choco can also be a beverage option with any KFC meal.

Promo runs until Dec. 31. Visit any KFC branch nationwide and have a glass of Anchor Full Cream Milk with your KFC.



GET a free Anchor milk in chocolate flavor with every order of KFC Chuckie meal.

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

Unfold your endless possibilities.

Designed with the functions you need and the form you want, the new Nokia 2650, the latest fold phone from Nokia, lets you move on to the next level. Visit your Authorized Nokia Dealers and check out the surprisingly affordable Nokia 2650!

• Stylish Elegant Fold Design and Snap Open Hinge • Discreet, Flashing Edge Light Alarms • Snap-free Internal Antenna Design • Color Display • MMS • Java Games • Polyphonic Ringing Tones

NOKIA
2650

Realize Your Potential

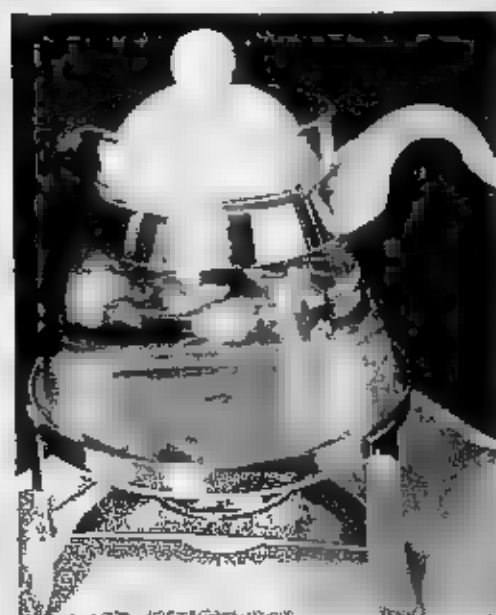
NIKON®
RICE COOKER

Zhongnanhai's
menu draws from
the cuisine of not
just one or two
but six places

SHANGHAI-STYLE
Poached Pear with
Fragrant Flower



BEIJING-STYLE Sliced Pork with Sweetened
Soya Sauce



ZHONGNANHAI Tea Menu consists of 18
types of tea with different therapeutic and
medicinal qualities.

A showcase of China's culinary treasures

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rudy Esperas

WHILE many restaurants specialize in cuisine from one particular region in China, the new Zhongnanhai Chinese Bistro is probably the only eating place in town that serves authentic dishes not just from one or two, but six culinary centers.

Yes, the extensive menu of ZNH (short for Zhongnanhai) includes specialties from Shanghai, Beijing, Szechuan, Hunan, Fujian and Guangdong.

Ruth Velasco Co says the restaurant is trying to showcase the varied Chinese

cuisines that give endless sensual delights. Co is president of Mac-Co Holdings Inc., the company that put up ZNH. With her husband Arnold, she also owns and runs the sandwich place Oliver's, the ice cream Haagen Dazs and the chocolate place Max Brenner.

"And we do it by preparing the dishes in different styles, but in accordance with the diverse cooking practices of each region," Co adds. She points out that Chinese cuisine is more than just sweet and sour fish fillet or steamed fish.

Latest project

Before opening ZNH, the Co couple flew to China with a group of friends for food tasting. They ate in different places in Shanghai, gathered recipes

ASHOWCASE/DZ

WOMEN'S HAIR LOSS STOPS AT SVENSON

You may have a hair loss problem.
Spot these basic signs:



Diffuse thinning of
hair all over the head



Moderate hair loss on
the crown or hairline



Excessive falling hair

It may not be obvious but you could be suffering from hair loss. It appears as overall thinning (2 hair strands where 5 used to be) that seems unnoticeable. Until it gets worse. Don't feel helpless. Spot these signs right away and get proven hair loss solutions at Svenson International. Our treatments will effectively eliminate the main cause of thinning and falling hair. We'll even restore fullness and give more body to your limp, wispy hair for a lush and healthier look.

Act now against hair loss.
Svenson is on your side.
Call us today!

Woman
AT
Svenson

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI QUEZON CITY BINONDO ALABANG CEBU
15/F QT Tower 4/F Center Exec. 11/F Federal Tower 4/F Glorietta-Franchise VIL 204-9651
Bldg. Bldg. Bldg. Bldg. 7/F Koppel Center



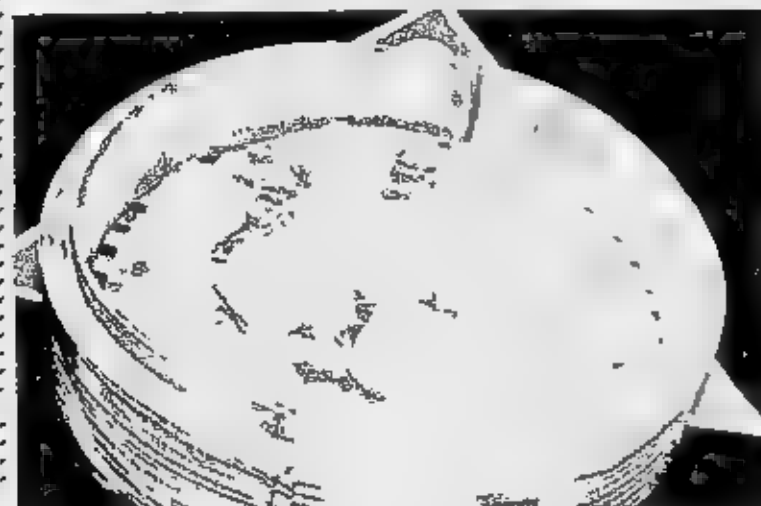
Novellino

The only way to enjoy wine this Christmas.

Let the season's cheer flow with Novellino wines. Bold, refreshing flavors.
Rich, sparkling textures. The holidays have never tasted so good.



SHANGHAI-STYLE Green Onion Pancakes



SHANGHAI Xiao Long Bao



THE HIP, non-traditional interiors of the new Chinese bistro

A showcase of China's culinary treasures

From page D1

and interviewed various chefs.

Their trip produced the ZNH 10-page menu, including 17 appetizers, 25 kinds of dim sum, nine soups, and various seafood, chicken, duck, pork, beef, bean curd, and vegetable dishes, noodles and rice. ZNH has also a long list of Chinese tea for customers to choose from.

The ZNH menu has a map of China at the back to give diners an idea of where the different dishes come from—Beijing to the North, Guangzhou to the South, Shanghai and Fujian to the East and Szechuan to the West.

Chinese delight

ZNH does not look like everyone's idea of a Chinese restaurant. For one thing, it does not have the usual showcase displaying the various cold cuts. For another, the servers sport trendy hair styles and coloring.

The two-story place is hip and non-traditional, painted white and red-orange. Chairs are of dark leather and wood. A display corner features huge glass jars containing various imported Chinese herbs and spices, including Szechuan pepper, red dates, dried Shanghai chili, white fungus, and red beans. ZNH has an open kitchen allowing diners to watch the chefs as their orders are cooked.

The appetizers include Shanghai-style Green Onion Pancake (P68), Cantonese-style Fried Bean Curd in Spicy Salt (P88), Szechuan-style Steamed Dumpling in Chili Sauce (P128) and Beijing-style Steamed Chicken with Peanut Sauce (P128).

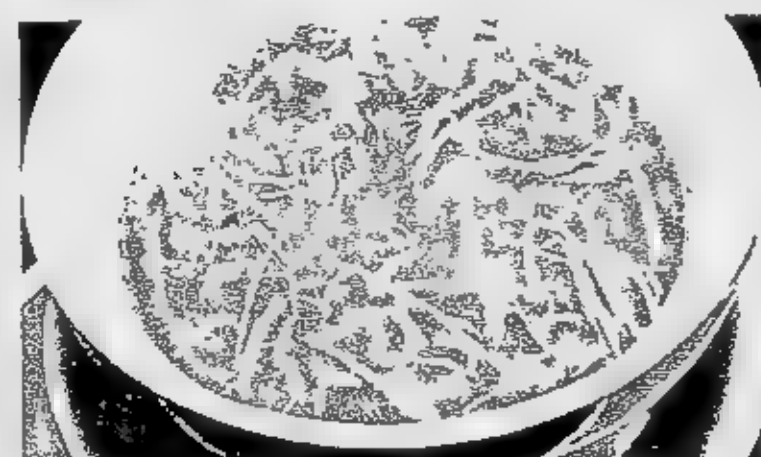
For seafood lovers, ZNH suggests its signature dishes—Szechuan-style Steamed Garoupa fillet in minced bean (P288), Shanghai-style Braised Prawns in pumpkin sauce served with steamed or fried buns (P318) and Shanghai-style Sautéed River Shrimp (P388).

Pork and beef items chefs recommend include the Shanghai-style Stir-Fried Diced Eight Treasures minced in spicy sauce (P168) and Cantonese style Pan-fried beef tenderloin in honey pepper sauce (P288).

For vegetables, the Beijing-style Fried



RUTH VELASCO-CO and staff at the entrance of hip ZNH, easily one of the most popular restaurants in Greenbelt



HONG KONG-STYLE Braised Assorted Dried Seafood and Shredded Abalone Soup



SHANGHAI-STYLE Steamed Rice Roll with Crispy Radish

String Beans with minced pork (P168) and Cantonese-style Sautéed kangkong with preserved bean paste (P148) are good choices.

Since a Chinese meal is not complete without noodles or rice, ZNH offers the Shanghai-style Dan-Dan Noodles in spicy sauce (P98), Shanghai-style Fried Noodles with Eight Treasures in Chili Sauce (P128) and Shanghai-style Fried Glutinous rice cake (P150).

For dim sum, the Shanghai-style Green Onion Pancake (P68), Deep-fried cocoon-shape radish puffs (P78), Cantonese-style Michael's steamed crispy radish roll-over (P88), and Steamed shrimp dumplings with Basil (P88) seem likely to be best-sellers.

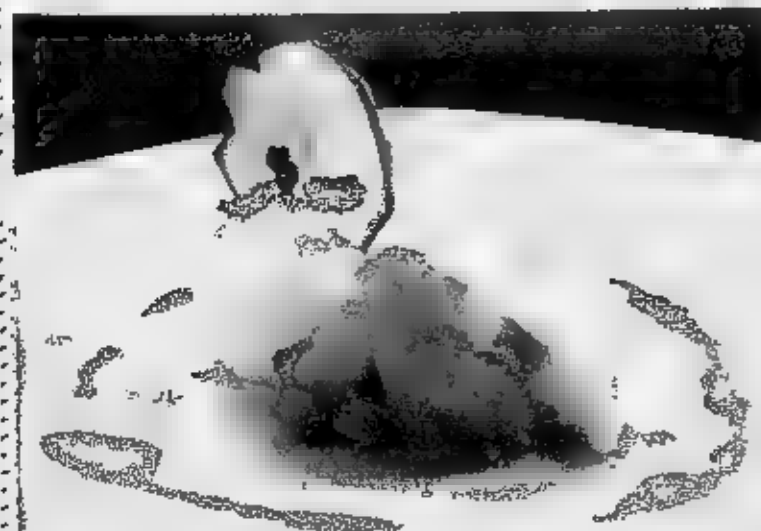
Dessert includes the Shanghai-style Chilled Sweetened Snow Fungus Jelly (P48) and Shanghai-style Poached Pear with Fragrant Flower (P58).

Go assures diners that dishes are prepared without vetsin (monosodium glutamate).

Zhongnanhai Chinese Bistro (tels. 7581111 and 7582222) is located at Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Recipes to brighten up the holiday spread



CAMEMBERT Wedge with Caramelized Bananas



SEARED Foie Gras Napoleon with Red Apple and Green Mirliton Compote

CHEF Inigo Castillo of the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA Manila) offers some easy to prepare recipes that will brighten up the dining table during the holidays.

Castillo, a CCA graduate, teaches Food Presentation, Mis en Place and Meat and Fish Fabrication. He said the menu he drew up included the most common holiday flavors.

CCA Manila received recently the Superbrands Award, the only culinary school in the Philippines to get the distinction.

Call CCA Manila at 4264840/4264841, e-mail marketing@cca-manila.com; or visit www.cca-manila.com

Almond-Crusted Salmon with Spiced Carrot Sauce and Potato Galette

50 g/2 tbsp almonds
50 g/2 tbsp bread crumbs
100 g/4 tbsp butter
5 g salt or to taste
200 g salmon
50 g/1 pc onion
100 g/1 c carrot
20 g/1 tsp ginger
120 ml/1 c chicken or fish stock
1 pc cloves
1/2 pod cardamom
1 pc bay leaf
1 pc large potato
Process almonds, bread crumbs and butter until the mixture achieves a dough-like consistency.

teny.

Shape into squares the size of salmon fillet and put aside.

Make sauce by sauteeing onions, carrots and ginger in butter.

Add chicken stock and bring to a simmer.

Add spices and simmer.

Put aside.

To make galette, cut the potato using mandoline or into paper-thin slices.

Brush slices with butter and place on parchment paper and bake till crisp.

Season and sear salmon in oil till brown then remove. Add crust and finish in oven.

Heat sauce and assemble.

To assemble, pour sauce at the center of the plate and place the salmon. Lean the potato on it. Place the vegetables on the other side.

Serves one.

Seared Foie Gras Napoleon with Red Apple and Green Mirliton Compote

100 g foie gras
1 pc apple, cored and diced
60 g/1/2 pc onions
200 g/1 c white sugar
50 ml balsamic vinegar
130 g/1 pc sayote
300 ml/2 c red wine
300 ml/2 c white wine
3 sheets filo pastry
Sauté half the onion in butter till translucent and add apple.

When apple is coated with butter, add the red wine, balsamic and half the sugar.

Let reduce till syrupy and put aside.

In another pan, sauté half the onion till translucent and add sayote.

When sayote is coated with butter, add white wine and sugar.

Let reduce till syrupy and put aside.

Brush filo sheets with melted butter and layer with the other filo sheets.

Cut little circles in the filo.

Bake in an oven till golden brown. Put aside.

Season foie gras and coat with flour. Sear over a very high heat flame till brown.

To assemble arrange alternate layers of foie, the apple and the sayote. Top with foie gras.

Serves three.

Camembert Wedge with Caramelized Bananas

5 pcs banana, peeled and sliced small
100 g/1/2 c sugar
120 ml water
1/2 c/1 scoop vanilla ice cream as desired apple chips
1 wedge Camembert cheese
Place sugar and water in a sauce pan and cook until it turns into caramel. Remove from heat and add bananas. Serve with a wedge of Camembert, ice cream and apple chips.

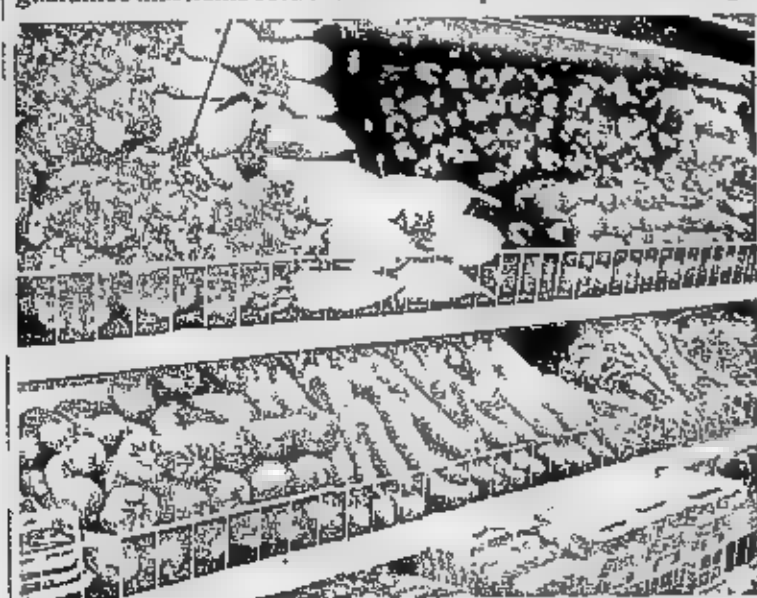
Serves one.

Robinsons Supermarket

Robinsons SUPERCENTER

big R Supercenter

Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Supercenter, & Big R Supercenter boasts of a wide variety of the freshest produce - fruits and vegetables, meat, poultry, fish and seafood items all sold in a clean and convenient environment. Strict quality control and food handling procedures guarantee that items sold at the Fresh Department are of the highest quality.



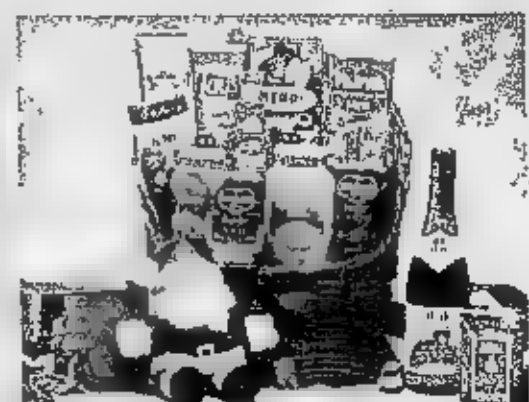
In addition, we also have a wide selection of grocery and household products from brands most trusted by households at low prices through the WOW! price off campaign. Aside from the variety of products and merchandise available, we offer year-round treats and surprises to customers like price-drops, product bundlings, freebies and various store promotions, thus providing customers with value for money shopping. That means more choices, more money-saving options



for customers.

The Supermarket and Supercenter also take pride in having friendly and efficient customer service staff always ready to assist customers in their grocery shopping needs. All these features create a pleasant, enjoyable and delightful shopping experience.

Watch out for the opening of Robinsons Supermarket in Commonwealth, Quezon City.



PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE
RAFFLE PROMO
Dec. 17-19, 2004
Get a chance to
WIN
KITCHEN
APPLIANCES
Call 02-800-0000
for more details
Robinsons Supermarket
Robinsons Supercenter
Big R Supercenter
Dec. 17-19, 2004

KEY to a Million
RAFFLE PROMO
Nov. 15-16 Feb. 15, 2004

"Have an early Christmas treat! Join Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Supercenter & Big R Supercenter's Key to a Million Raffle Promo! Over P4,000,000 worth in cash & prizes await you!

A minimum single receipt purchase of P300 entitles you to a raffle coupon.

Per DTI-MCR Permit No. 2733 Series of 2004

Yuletide gift choices
for as low as
P75!

The ultimate solution to all your gift-giving needs this coming holiday season are the popular Christmas Baskets. Available in assorted packages and prices, one will surely find a gift choice that fits his taste and budget. The wide selection of gift ideas can also be purchased with ease using Robinsons Gift Certificates or the Robinsons Card.

Kotex Celebrity
Meet & Greet at
Robinsons Supercenter
Pioneer

Visit Robinsons Supercenter Pioneer and watch the 3 R girls of GMA 7, Anna Domingo, Chal Lontoc and Reem Chanco on December 17 as they hang around for interviews and autograph signing at the Kotex shelf at 2pm. Plus... you can win loads of cool freebies when you buy Kimberly Clark products and

December 18 and 19.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE

BIG, BIG DISCOUNTS!

DEC. 17 UP TO MIDNIGHT
DEC. 18 & 19 REGULAR STORE HOURS

Robinsons Supermarket
• Robinsons Mall
• Trinoma Center
• Robinsons Galleria
• Target Mall, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
• Circle C Center, Congressional
• Malabon City
• Greenbelt, Taguig
• Aroneta Square, Calabarzon City
• Good Earth Plaza, Alabang
• Suezco Complex, Navotas
• Robinsons Supercenter
• Robinsons Place Pioneer
• Robinsons Mall
• Naga Mall, Dagupan
• Robinsons Supercenter
• Robinsons Supercenter
• Robinsons Supercenter



TONY Roma's baby back ribs grilled to perfection



FAJITA, a top favorite among Chili's diners



HEFTY portions of hamburgers, chicken fingers and Philly steak sandwiches at TGI Friday's

'To-mah-to' or 'to-may-to,' it can only be one ketchup

WHAT do TGI Friday's and Tony Roma's at Glorietta, and Chili's at Greenbelt have in common?

They all use only Heinz Tomato Ketchup.

Lilier Martinez of TGI Friday's says generally they have a youngish clientele. But on weekends they get children and grandparents, too.

In view of this, TGI Friday's has adapted its menu to accommodate the eating preferences of both groups. Its regular fare consists of American dishes, mainly burgers and salads. It has added *inhaw na tiempo* and Pinoy chicken barbecue for the sake of *lolos* and *lolas*.

Family patronage, Martinez adds, has given the Glorietta outlet the highest annual guest count among over 200 TGI Friday's stores all over the world from 1995-2001. It aver-

aged 50,000 guests per month.

Laine de Jesus, Chili's marketing head, says weekends also mean families enjoying the restaurant's American Southwestern dishes like steaks, salads, wraps (served with *tostada* chips and salsa), *fajitas* (grilled with bell peppers and onions, and served with warm tortillas, guacamole, *piza de galla*, cheese and sour cream) and grilled entrées (baby back ribs, chicken, prawns, tuna, salmon and pork chops).

Rosa T. Eugenio, general manager of Tony Roma's, says though the restaurant aims to draw the business crowd, it also recognizes the Asian custom of dining as a family.

She says from Friday to Sunday many families go to the restaurant for dinner.

To make sure their customers will keep coming back, TGI Friday's, Chili's and Tony Roma's ensures the

high quality of the food they serve in big portions. All the dishes are approved by the parent firms in the United States. This means ingredients, style or manner of preparation and cooking, as well as the sauces and condiments to be used, must have the approval of their franchisers.

Bottles of Heinz Tomato Ketchup are permanent fixtures of table settings in outlets of TGI Friday's, Chili's and Tony Roma's not just in the Philippines but in other parts of the world as well.

Martinez says Heinz Tomato Ketchup is "thicker, richer and tastier, making it a perfect complement for a number of TGI Friday's bestsellers like Philly Steak Sandwich, Friday's Hamburger and Chicken Fingers."

De Jesus says the ketchup goes well with Chili's Oldtimer Burger, Chicken Crispers and Club Sandwich, three of the most popular items on the menu.

Combo!
OVEN BAKED!
CHEDDAR CH
CRACKER

Maltesers

Mars

Holiday snackin' surprises

get a chance to
WIN
one of
242 M&M's Limited edition dispenser
or **P500,000 cash!**

Check Inside M&M, Maltesers, Combos, Snickers or Mars wrappers for your winning coupon

S&M
DEPARTMENT STORE

www.pontefino.com.ph

Special Christmas Rate
Php 2,400net in a Premium Room

For more details, visit our website or call 02-8866666

The perfect time and place for the perfect Christmas.

Hotel PONTAFINO
BAYAN LARANG, CALABARZON
Definitely a fine Filipino experience

Experience total indulgence

Enjoy the ultimate in luxury and comfort at Pontafino. Our Premium Room is the perfect place to relax and unwind. Enjoy the view of the bay and the city lights. The room is fully equipped with all the amenities you need for a comfortable stay. Enjoy the perfect Christmas at Pontafino.



CURRY-LICIOUS. Stir-fried Crab with Thai Curry Sauce, Steamed Fish with Sour Soup on Stove, Nasi Goreng Nenas (Curry-flavor Pineapple Rice with Chicken, Shrimps, Chinese Sausage, Green Pea and Dried Raisin Filled in Pineapple), Sautéed Assorted Fresh Mushroom with Garlic and White Wine

Have an Asian treat this Christmas

SPICE up your holidays by serving a one-of-a-kind feast evocative of the exotic Orient. Enjoy a wide array of authentic Malaysian, Indian, Thai and Singaporean culinary specialties.

Start with the crispy Mixed Deep Fried Special consisting of minced prawn on sugarcane, *samosas*, spring roll and chicken with *pandanus* leaves, fried golden brown. Pair it with Penang Char Kway Teow, stir-fried rice noodles with shrimps, bean sprouts, green chives and egg.

You may want to try the popular steamed Hainanese Chicken, with a choice of dipping sauces. Or have the Deep-fried Spicy King Prawns in a Sarong, large prawns wrapped in *pandanus* leaves and deep fried.

The Stir-fried Crab with Thai Curry Sauce is a unique blend of sweet and spicy

while the Nasi Goreng Nenas is a novel concoction of curry-flavored fried rice with chicken, shrimps, Chinese sausage, green peas and dried raisins served on a pineapple boat.

Savor the taste of a fresh catch with Steamed Fish with Soup served on a steel stove. For a taste of a classic, try the Sautéed Assorted Fresh Mushroom with Garlic and White Wine.

The Banana Leaf Curry House is a member of the Coniserie de la Chaine Des Rotisseurs. It serves a selection of breads, appetizers, soups, as well as seafood, meat, vegetable, rice and noodle dishes from across Asia.

Branches are located at G/F Plaza Building, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati, (tel. 8128618, 8121475); 2/F The Podium, 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong (6876808, 6876818); and Theater Drive, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa (7728833, 7728899).

WHO do you call
about offensive ads?
/E4

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lfstyle@inquirer.com.phText us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The three 'kusineras'

This trio of women
borrows family recipes
for home-made holiday
treats

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Contributor

LIKE artistic talent, the skill for cooking and baking may have to be in the genes.

Linda Lacson, Boot Roa Ureta and Angela Colet all come from families where eating and good food is a passion. This holiday season, the three women put to good use time-honored recipes passed on from generation to generation to bring mouth-watering dishes and sweets to our Christmas tables.

Tapping into their treasure trove of recipes, they embarked on small businesses that would indulge their passions. "It's not work at all," Ureta says, "When you love what you do, no matter how tired you are, it's still a joy to do it."

And if the passion that the women put into their cooking and baking is absorbed by the dishes they whip up, you can be sure the people who partake of their creations can also feel the love that goes into them.

Wawa Linda's kitchen

LACSON (tel. 5330934, 6355524 or 0917-3268807) has been a widow for more than two decades now. A woman who always loved to cook for her family, she entered the food order business three years ago. Her famous dishes are culled from recipes passed on to her by her father-in-law, former Negros Occidental governor Rafael Lacson. Her top three most popular dishes are paella, Christmas ham and callos.

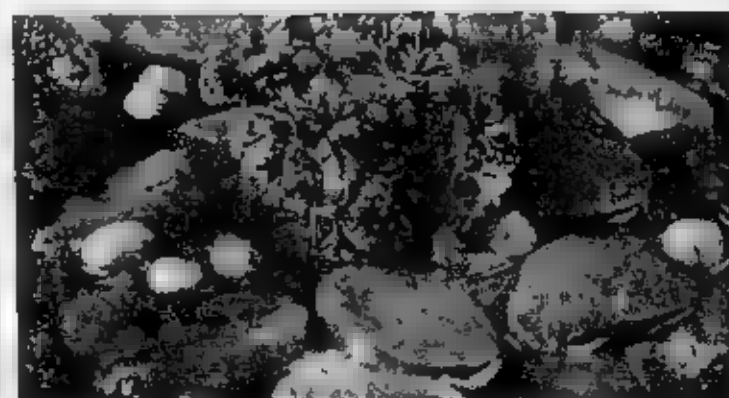
Lacson's callos (P600/large size pyrex dish) is one of the best I have tasted. Being a callos



WAWA Linda Lacson
delights in whipping
up dishes for her
family.



CHRISTMAS Ham. Soft, succulent and sugar-glazed



connoisseur of sorts, after I tried Lacson's version for the first time, I raved about it for days! The tripe is very tender and tasty, bathed in a delectable sauce of olive oil and spices and garnished with black and green olives and tasty chorizo del rey.

Lacson's callos just melts in your mouth and the memory of it lingers on for days, like your first kiss—something you look forward to. Her Christmas ham (P400/kilo) is succulent and delicious. Soft and sugar glazed, it is a de-

CALLOS. Its
tenderness lingers
long after the last
bite.

THE THREE/E3

A Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from ISCAHM!

Discounted
Rates for those
enrolling on
or before
Dec. 23, 2004

Our Short Courses for 2005:

3-month Fundamentals in Culinary Arts
Starts January 19, 2005; Wednesdays
January 22, 2005; Saturdays

3-month Fundamentals in Pastry Arts
Starts January 18, 2005; Tuesdays
January 22, 2005; Saturdays

3-month Flavors of Asia
Starts January 15, 2005; Saturdays

1-month Fundamentals in Bread Baking
Starts January 21, 2005; Fridays

We are now accepting enrollees for the
1-year Diploma courses, SY 2005-06



ISCAHM
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
FOR CULINARY ARTS &
HOTEL MANAGEMENT

4th Floor PGB Arcade, Katipunan Ave.
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Tel. 920-1481 • 925-8888 • 426-7672
www.iscahm.com

MANGO TORTE EXTRAORDINAIRE



The House Specialty

Crispy-chewy nougatine crust with mangos and cream.
We have the best melt in your mouth ENJAYMADA.
And unbelievably full laden STRAWBERRY CAKE

For your Christmas party needs

Try our mouth watering Best Sellers:
CALLOS • LENGUA • PAELLA • BLACK PAELLA
Sample our Gourmet Savory dishes:
Chicken Galantina & Relena • Gourmet Paella
Kone-Kone • Chap Choe • Beef Pochero/Cocido

DULCELIN Gourmet Specialties
Linda or Lina / Tel. 374-2 65 or 67

36 Times Street • West Triangle • Quezon City

**The smoothest way
to a million pesos
is at your fingertips**

Get a chance to win free cellphone loads and P1 Million!
First time texters must register as follows:
BNT REG <City or Town> / <Province> / <District> / <Complete Address> / <Sex> / <Age> / <Code>
Send to 398 for Smart & Talk; 711 for subscribers or 2350 for Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers.
See posters for details. Per DTI-MCR Permit No. 2105 Series of 2004

**WHAT'S ON
AT ROBINSONS**

You're in for a
crazy Christmas
with Bugs Bunny,
Tweety, Daffy,
Sylvester and Taz!
See them in the fun!

Looney Tunes
Discover
Robinsons
Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com

SpongeBob SquarePants

FunTuBulous!

You can get a
SpongeBob SquarePants toy
FREE in every
SELECTA Ice Cream FunTub
Wow!

NEW
Ice Cream FunTub

Collect All 4

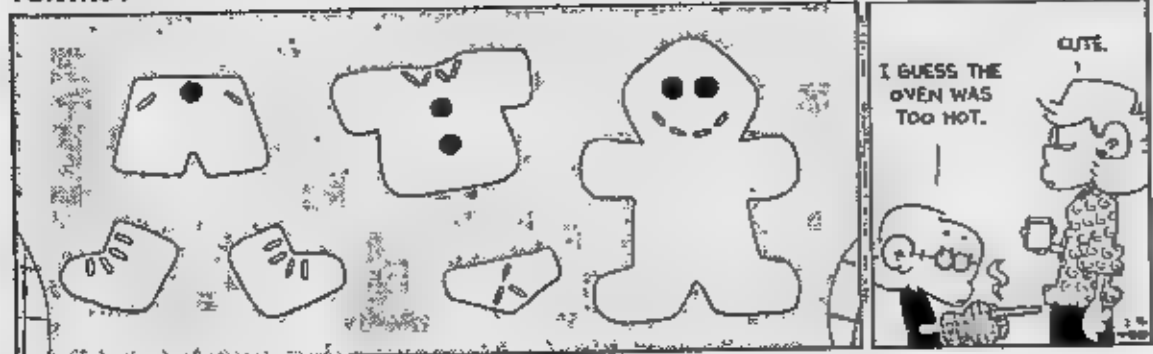
©2004 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Viacom International Inc. is the owner of all rights in the names and characters of Viacom International Inc. Created by Viacom International.

SELECTA

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY RM. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBBO

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



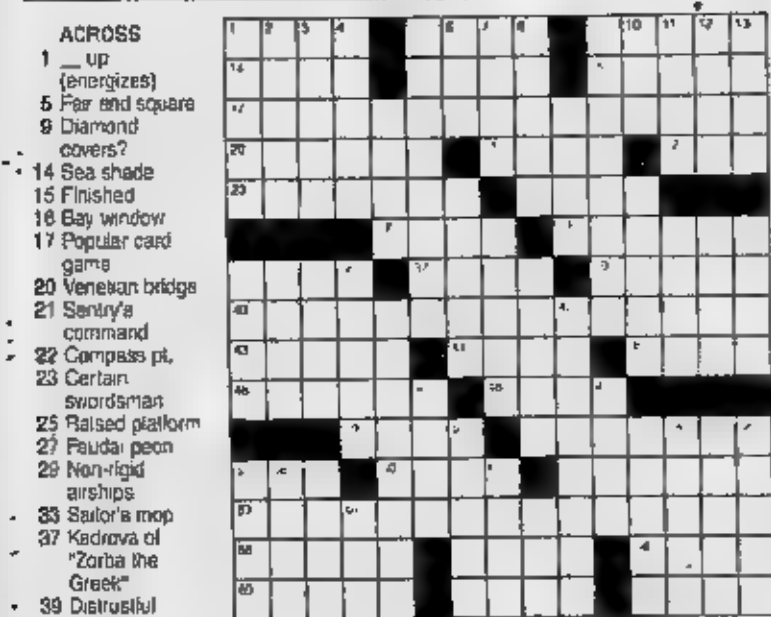
HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind and a great imagination. Others admire your thinking. You can overcome physical limitations in your life. You are quite complex and are often guided by a major purpose in life. Your friends and family are important to you. The year ahead can be one of the best years of your life! Birthdate of: Arthur C. Clarke, author; Benjamin Bratt, actor; Margaret Mead, anthropologist

- ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** You might have a consciousness expanding experience that broadens your appreciation of life in the next few weeks. Somehow, you seem to learn new things about the world.
- GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Love affairs, close friendships and partnerships are blessed in the next month. You find it easy to express your affection for others.
- LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** The month ahead is a fabulous time for fun, entertainment, having a great time and, of course, romance! You feel no need to pretend to be what you are not.
- TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You can attract money to you from other sources in the next few weeks. Possibly, your partner will get a raise or a bonus. Somehow, good-luck comes to you.
- CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Everything related to your job and your profession will work more smoothly in the next month. In particular, you'll enjoy good relationships with co-workers and customers.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** In the next few weeks, you need more rest and relaxation at home. Relations with family members will improve. Redecorating at home will appeal to you.
- LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** You have a lovely month ahead! As Venus changes signs today, it brings you a greater appreciation of your everyday surroundings. Your social life will pick up too!
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** The next few weeks can be financially beneficial if you handle them right. Certainly, financial opportunities will come your way. The downside is—you're feeling extravagant!
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Don't be surprised to find you have an increasing desire to see others in the next few weeks. You'll make the necessary compromises. You want to have a good time with friends.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** You might find that you need to care for someone in the next few weeks. You won't mind doing this, because you see there is joy in laboring for those you love. It's not a sacrifice.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** All activities are strongly favored in the next four weeks. People are easily friendly to you now, and vice versa. Great!
- PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Regardless of what you do in your job, you will be asked to help artistically in some way—design, layout, painting, wallpapering, redecorating and such. You'll make things look better.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, Ill.

12/16/04



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



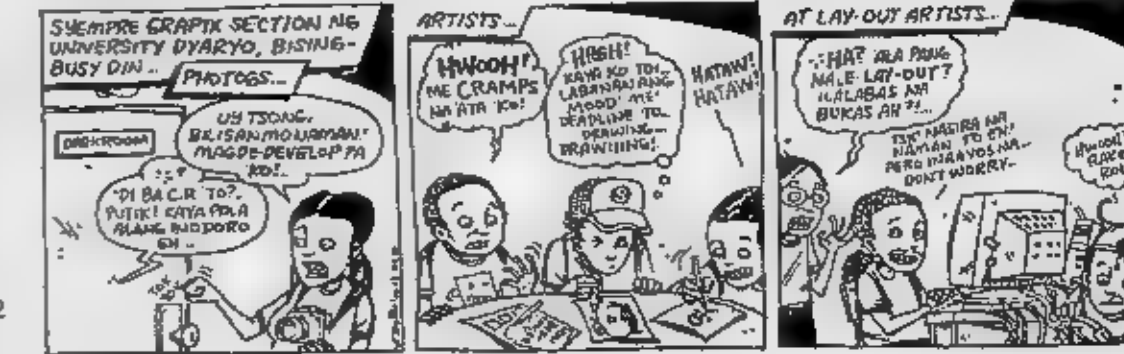
BEN

BY DAN E. SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



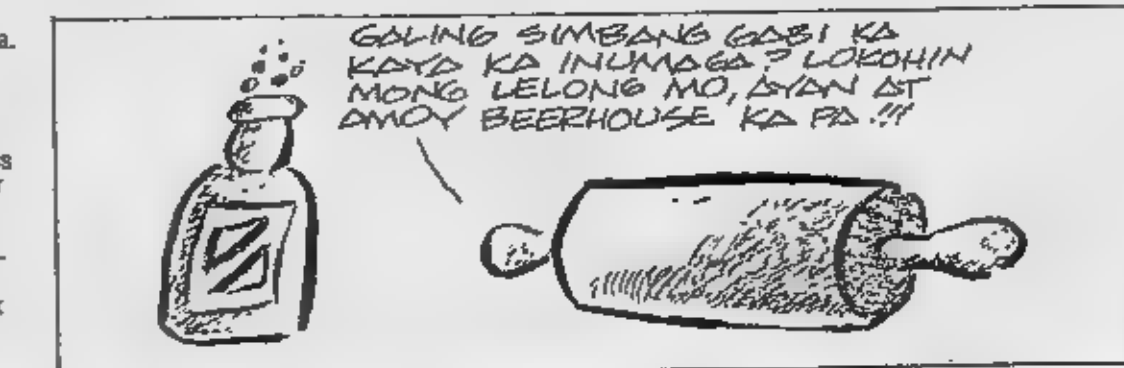
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBING





Write to AdBoard about offensive ads

HOW about more of those radio-television ads that make us smile? They're just what we need to ease the impact of upsetting news about disasters, killings, scams, lawlessness, political squabbles, etc.

Let's say "no" to ads that are offensive to taste, ads that require parental guidance, ads that capitalize on infirmities, or ads that make exaggerated claims.

If our fellow consumers have more comments in mind, we urge them to write to the Advertising Board of the Philippines or Ad-Board (fax: 8187109, e-mail: ad-board@piddtsi.net, or call 8186113/8177724). Now is a good time to do that because the board is re-evaluating its 30-year-old advertising code.

The AdBoard, incidentally, started recently a series of dialogues with different sectors to discuss its code of ethics and self-regulatory policies.

Last week, for instance, ad people hosted a roundtable discussion with newspaper columnists. Expectedly, the guests aired their disgust over "distasteful" ads. One columnist raged against a skin-care ad that focused on a young fellow rubbing his butt against a bench in front of an old lady. Another columnist recalled the controversy over the line, "Nakatikim ka na ba ng 15 anos?" in a liquor ad.

AdBoard chair Cerge M. Remonde assured the columnists, "As advertisers, we are very conscious about public opinion. We will listen as long as you tell us your opinion... and we will pull out the offending advertising."

The officials admitted, however, that the advertising code of ethics did not have a legal force. Nonetheless, members voluntarily abided by its regulations and provisions, they pointed out.

Obviously, advertisers have no choice. Before their ad can be aired or published, it has to be submitted to the AdBoard's pre-screening committee that checks its compliance with the code, as well as compliance with standards set by government regulatory agencies.

By the way, here are some items from the report of a spokesperson of the 30-year-old AdBoard (formerly Philippine Board of Advertising). The AdBoard has 336 members, mostly major advertisers. Print media's share of the total advertising business is about 10 percent; television takes the lion's share, 72 percent.

Last year, the total advertising revenue of (newspaper) broadsheets was P6.1 billion. That was a paltry sum compared to the P43-billion revenue, reportedly of just the top two television networks.

Flier's concerns

It speaks well of a company to have a customer service representative who responds promptly to complaints of customers.

This week, we praise Cebu Pacific customer service frontliner Daphne Ty for replying to the complaint of frequent-flier customer Jerome Escobedo. Ty not only apologized but also wrote: "Rest assured

THE CONSUMER

**Marietta Velasco
Giron**



Let's say 'no' to ads that are offensive to taste, ads that require parental guidance, ads that capitalize on infirmities, or ads that make exaggerated claims. Now is a good time because Adboard is re-evaluating its advertising code

that we will be forwarding your requests to all the departments you mentioned. We thank you for the feedback as it would help us improve our services."

Escobedo (Jerome.Escobedo@dalsemi.com) complained: "Whenever I go through the whole process of getting my flight reserved, pay it by Fastphone and get the much-heralded e-ticket by fax, I have to spend so much time and effort to finish the job."

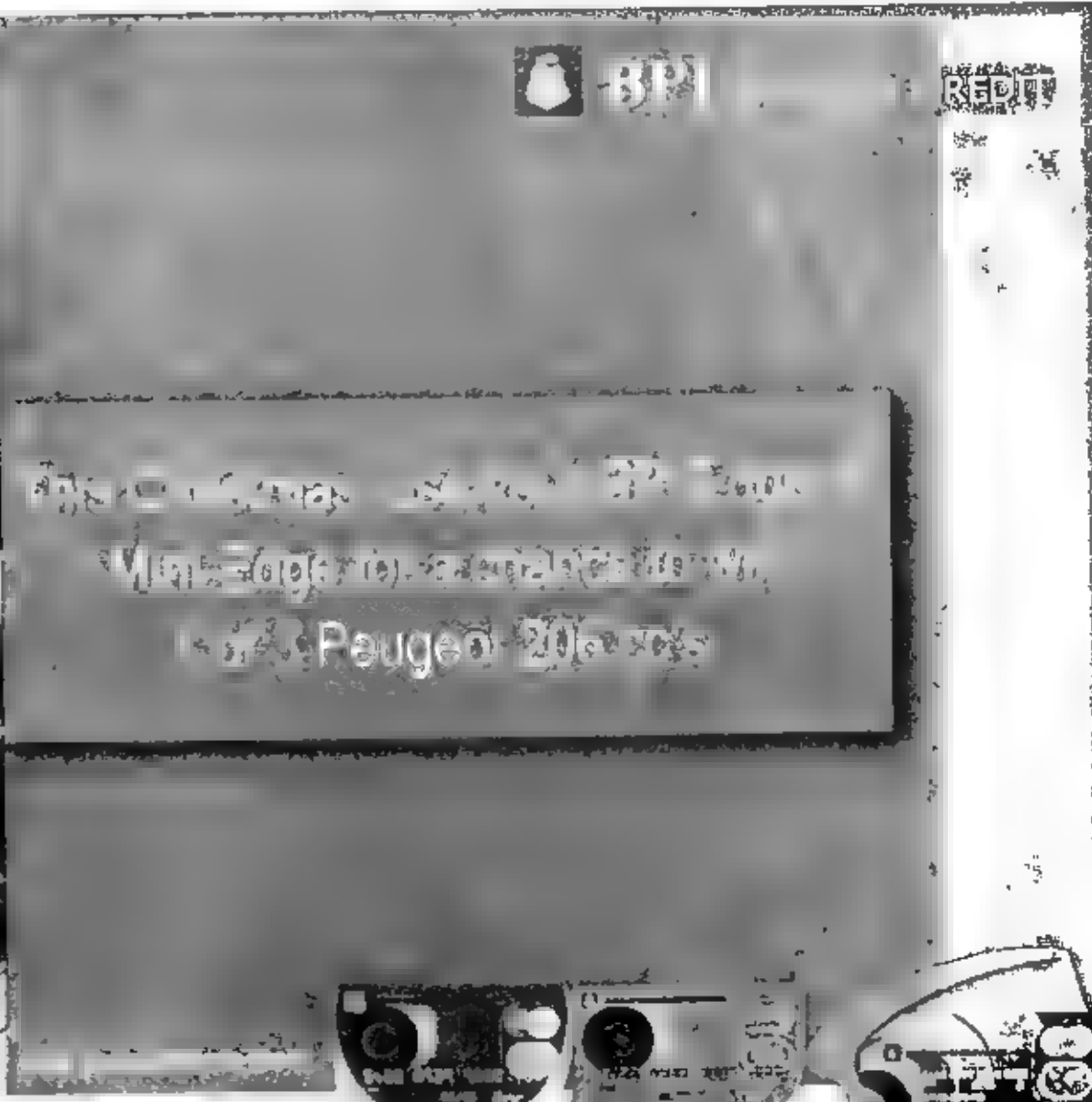
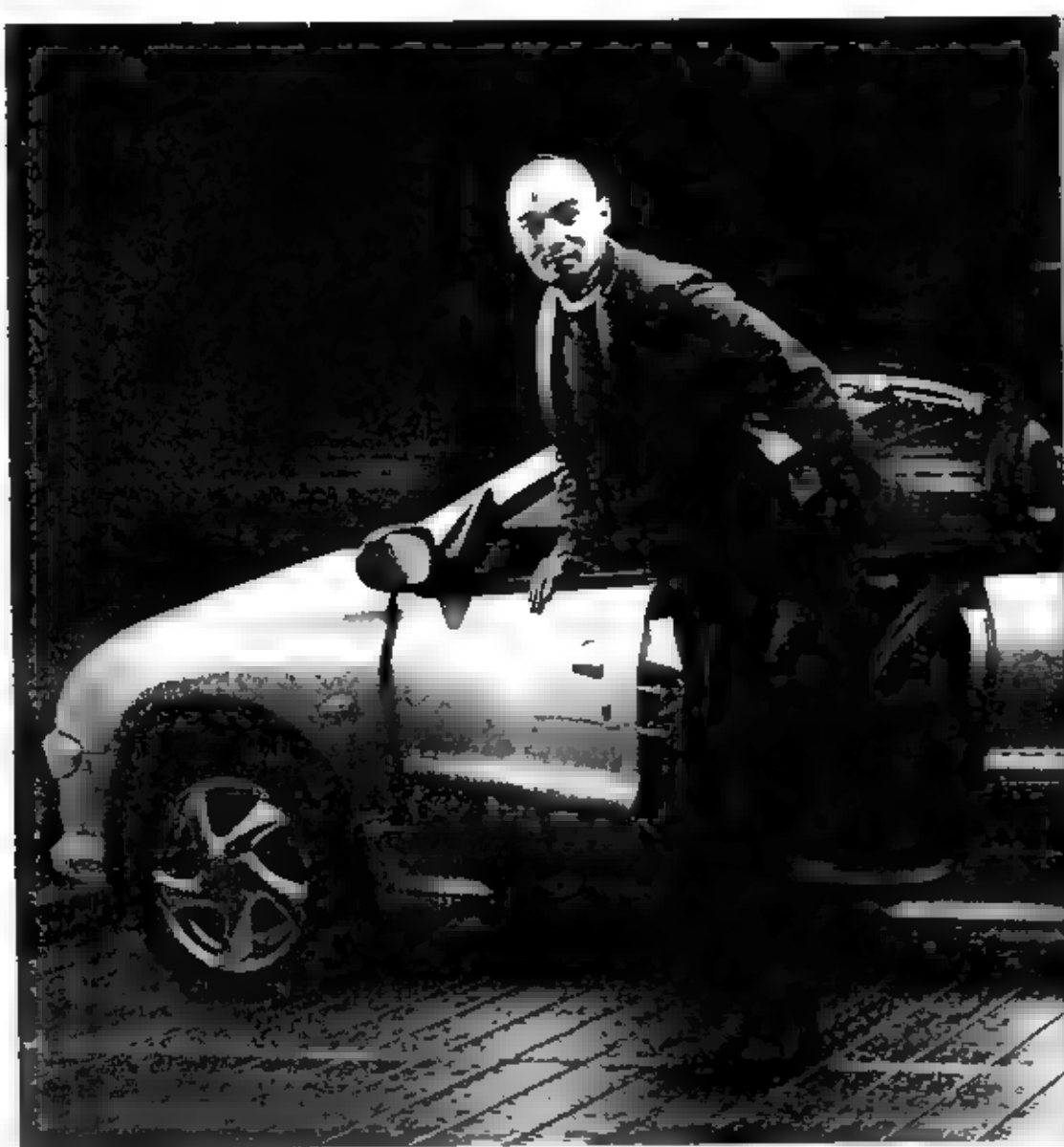
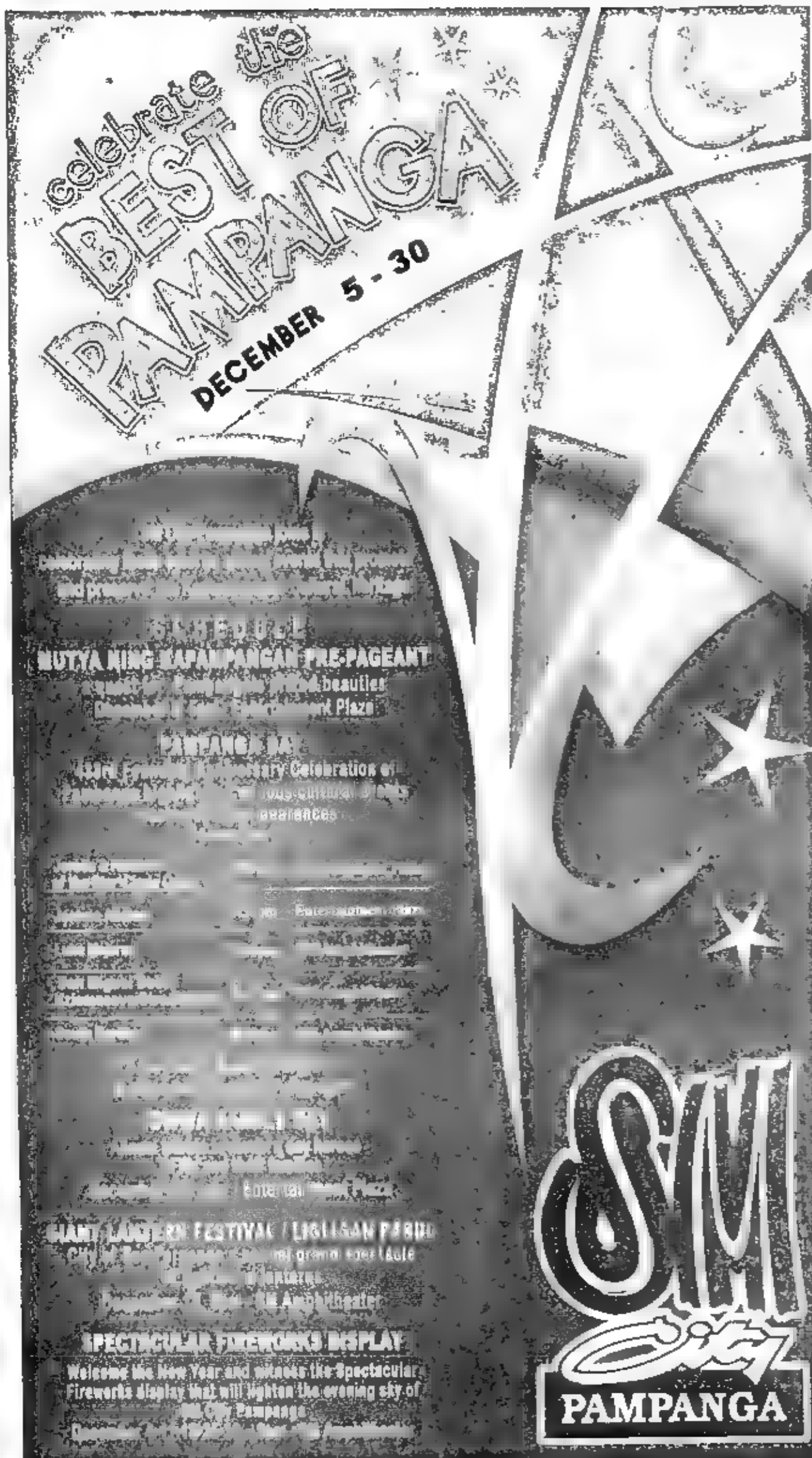
Here are his other comments. Hotline does not live up to the marketing pitch, "95 percent on-time-all-the-time." Line connection can be time-consuming.

TextCeb—or reservation by text messaging—is more costly compared to using a landline of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone company, considering that the process of booking a reservation entails multiple text messaging at P2.50 each. It will be cheaper to use PLDT, especially if you are calling long distance. I suggest TextCeb should be free of charge.

Online booking—Does not mention promo rates. Does it mean that online rates are based on regular fare?

E-Ticker—It is convenient because customers don't have to go out and buy the ticket. But glitches can be costly and time consuming. For example, when a careless agent forgets important data reference, customer has to make several phone calls to get things done.

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph.



BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership



Distributed by
Autofrance Philippines, Inc.

Next year could be your happiest new year because you could be driving around in a brand new Peugeot 206 cc. Simply use your BPi Edge or Mini-Edge for all your Christmas shopping. Every P500 single purchase gives you one raffle

entry. The more you use BPI Edge or Mini-Edge, the bigger your chances of winning. So hit the stores now. You've got less than 30 days till the promo ends - December 31, 2004. To join, drop your charge slips in drop boxes at

BPI or BPI Family Bank
branches or BPI Express
Banking Centers.

Apply now and get a chance to win. Each approved principal or extension card applicant gets one raffle coupon.

* Winners will be drawn on January 15, 2005.

² Proposed 2001 gr's to be rolled out among current cardholders.

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



TEN MINUTES 30 years ago was all Simon Santos (left) had with his idol. Last February, Simon, carrying his precious book, and his brother Steve Santos (in black) spent more time with FPJ.

Da King's 'No. 1 fan' gets wish

By Nini Valera

THE SON of painter Malang, who has been collecting Fernando Poe Jr. movie print ads since 1955, was able to give the actor a book of his collection.

Simon Malang Santos, 51, told INQUIRER Entertainment last Tuesday he saw the actor last Feb. 10 and was able to give him the book in person.

"That had been my wish for the longest time," Santos said in Filipino. "I wanted to give Da King, my idol, the book in person."

Santos' collection, which has been compiled in four volumes, was featured in Inquirer Entertainment on Oct. 17, 2003.

Former actress Ana Marin, who has a child with FPJ, Ronian Poe, apparently read the feature and dropped by Santos' video shop on West Avenue in Quezon City and asked to look at the book, according to Santos.

She also asked if she could give the book to FPJ, said Santos.

But Santos did not want to let go of the book and decided to wait for the time when he would

see his idol and give him the book himself.

FPJ party

"I saw Susan Roces one time in Greenhills and introduced myself as Da King's biggest fan," Santos recalled. "She was eating in a restaurant and I just approached her. That was in August or September last year, before FPJ announced his candidacy. She told me, 'Sayang, Ronnie is in the States.' Then she asked for my card and told me she would call me when he returned. She did not call. Maybe, she was busy or she might have misplaced my calling card. I told myself I'd wait for another chance."

Santos finally got that chance when a staff member of the actor invited him to a party last February at the FPJ compound on Del Monte Avenue in Quezon City where a mini rally was being held for the actor's presidential candidacy.

"I brought with me two copies of the book—one to give to FPJ, the other for myself," narrated Santos. "I asked him to sign my



AT LONG LAST, Poe read Santos' labor of love

copy, and gave him the other book. He was amazed when he looked at it, and asked me where I got the copies of the ads. I told him I started collecting the ads in the '60s from newspaper clip-

pings, and the rest came from my research at the National Library. He told me he was happy to have the book since he did not have anything like it. He gave the book immediately to his secretary. I

heard him tell her not to lose it."

FPJ wrote in Santos' book: "Dear Simon, Gratefully, Fernando Poe Jr."

Film anecdotes

Da King, Santos said, also related to him anecdotes of his movies as the actor scanned through the pages of the book.

"For example, when he was looking at the ad of 'Dakilang 9,' he told me he made 'Magic 7' because of the former's success," Santos said.

The actor also shared with him his own collection of FPJ films, which are kept in the FPJ compound. He also posed for pictures with his No. 1 fan.

"I felt that he treasured the book and that made me very happy," Santos recalled. "Maybe I would have regrets if I did not give him the book. I am also very happy that he saw my labor."

In an earlier interview with Santos for the story on his collection last year, the fan told INQUIRER Entertainment he was hoping FPJ would contact him and ask to see the book.

"I hope that when he reads this, he would contact me and we could set an appointment so I could show him my collection," Santos had said then. "That's all I ask of the man."

Unbelieving

Santos first met FPJ in 1974 and talked to him for 10 minutes.

"I was only 21 then, and I told him that he had been my idol for the longest time," said Santos. "He told me not to talk about such things in public because it would only make him look old."

The collection of Santos is one of the unique memorabilia of the man, whom millions of Filipinos idolized and voted for in the last presidential election.

"Yes, I voted for him," Santos admitted, even if in the earlier interview he said he wished that FPJ would not enter politics. "I still can't believe that he's dead. I am so sad that he is."

Santos' book becomes more valuable now that FPJ has died.

"Through it, FPJ's myth and legend would live on," Santos said.

'What's in store for the dead?'

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

TEN years ago, on Nov. 16, 1994, while I was trying to get through the so-called FPJ legend and inquiring into his psyche, Fernando Poe Jr. already had thoughts of the afterlife and actually answered questions on death when he talked to this writer for the cover story of Nov. 27, 1994 edition of The Sunday Inquirer.

"I had thought of death at certain points of my life," FPJ admitted 10 years ago during the interview at the Bistro Lorenzo on Annapolis Street in Greenhills, San Juan, just two blocks away from Lincoln Street where he lived. "At times when I think of death, I ask myself: what is it like being lifeless? What is the feeling like? What is in store for people who pass away?"

Some people around FPJ—who was then promoting a film on the life of former NBI Director Epimaco Velasco—told me the actor was afraid of plane rides and that was supposedly the reason he hardly went abroad.

And so I asked the question myself: Was he afraid of plane rides?

"No, I am not afraid to take the plane," he told me then. "But just like any passenger, I worry. What if something happens?"

Turbulent flight

According to the king of Philippine movies, at one time during his

close friend Joseph Estrada's vice presidential campaign, when they were always riding a helicopter, they experienced flight turbulence and they exchanged worried looks.

To brighten up the situation, FPJ told Erap: "If we crashed in this flight and something bad happened to us, I am sure you'd get the lead billing on the front pages because you are the vice presidential aspirant."

According to FPJ, Erap shot back, "Sana hindi ako maunang mamatay. Pero 'pag nauna ako, ilalakad pa rin kita kay San Pedro (But if I passed away ahead of you, I'd see to it you'd get a fair deal from St. Peter)."

As it turned out, it was FPJ who passed away ahead of Erap, not in a helicopter crash but coronary thrombosis.

FPJ answered related questions on death and wondered aloud, "Grabe ka maka-interview. Pati kamatayan ko gusto ma nang pagusapan."

But he gamely went on and concluded seriously, "It's actually better to prepare for that eventuality. It's kind of morbid buying all kinds of insurance and memorial plans but when it's time to go, you should at least spare your loved one the trouble of worrying about your burial expenses. You must learn how to look beyond. Of course we all hope we will have a beautiful exit."

FPJ's exit was of course short of beautiful but it was dramatic and caught him in the middle of a Christ-



THE KING and the author after the 1994 interview

mas party.

I asked him about the secret of his reign as King of Philippine Movies for more than three decades, but he told me to ask other people instead.

On why he identified with the common man, FPJ said, "I had my struggling days both as an actor and as producer. I started as a bit player and when I went into producing, it wasn't easy even if I had a name. I know how it is to run out of working capital because I've been through that myself."

Hooked on opera

Scriptwriter Baby Nebrija, who was beside me during the interview, offered to explain the FPJ mystique in the Filipino film industry. "He was producer first and foremost and he is also an actor. He was a bit player before he became a full-blown actor and he also directs. So he is Every-

WHAT'S 2

Show biz stands still

By Nini Valera

THE MOVIE industry stopped and mourned collectively the death of Fernando Poe Jr. starting Monday.

Regular programming of ABS CBN's "Morning Star" was devoted to a tribute to FPJ, who lay in coma for two days—after suffering a stroke last Sunday—until he died a minute after midnight Tuesday.

On the show via phone patch, FPJ's show biz friends talked about the man and how he touched their lives.

Offer to help Regal

Actor Cesar Montano credited FPJ for helping him shape his career, especially his shift to

directing, by giving him a crash course and priceless tips in movie making. Montano has so far directed four movies, including "Panagho sa Suba," an all-Visayan film that is part of this month's Metro Manila Film Festival.

A press conference for the movie "Mano Po 3, My Love," scheduled for Tuesday night was cancelled. The film's producer, Lily Monteverde was interviewed by phone at the wake of FPJ at the Arlington Memorial Homes in Pasig City where media people were barred from entering.

Monteverde said FPJ's wife Susan Roces was busy entertaining members of the family and the couple's close friends.

SHOW BIZ 2

All-Digital Cinemas



The fun is in the finds

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movie tickets for sale at the
Ground Floor Fiesta Market and
Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

- ① The Polar Express
- ② National Treasure
- ③ George and the Dragon
- ④ Pasiyam

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

- ⑤ Honey
- ⑥ Harold and Kumar
- ⑦ Bad Santa

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7816

movietime

PETER PAN AND THE TIME MACHINE

Welcomes you to

I whattowatch I

—THE—
PODIUM
C I N E M A

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 BAD SANTA

2 HAROLD AND KUMAR

MTRCB RATING: R13

ALEXANDER

SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 3	SM Megamall Cinema 2	SM North Edsa Cinema 1	SM Manila Cinema 4
SM Southmall Cinema 8	SM Fairview Cinema 7		

BAD SANTA SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM Manila Cinema 5	SM North Edsa Cinema 5	SM Sucat Cinema 2
SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 7	SM Megamall Cinema 5	SM Southmall Cinema 1
		SM Bicutan Cinema 3

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

BCUZ OF U

SM Fairview Cinema 9	SM Southmall Cinema 9	SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 10	SM Manila Cinema 12
-------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------

HAROLD AND KUMAR SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM North Edsa Cinema 6	SM Tutuban Cinema 2	SM Southmall Cinema 4	SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM Megamall Cinema 4	SM Bicutan Cinema 2	SM Sucat Cinema 1	SM Manila Cinema 2

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

HONEY

SM Tutuban Cinema 1	SM Southmall Cinema 2	SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 9	SM Manila Cinema 5
		SM North Edsa Cinema 8	SM Megamall Cinema 9

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB RATING: G

SM Manila Cinema 18.6	SM North Edsa Cinema 7	SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 5	SM Bicutan Cinema 4
SM Fairview Cinema 6	SM Megamall Cinema 3	SM Southmall Cinema 3	SM Sucat Cinema 3

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

PA-SIYAM

SM Manila Cinema 9	SM North Edsa Cinema 3	SM Southmall Cinema 7	SM Fairview Cinema 5
	SM Megamall Cinema 8	SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 1	SM Tutuban Cinema 3

2046 MTRCB RATING: R13

SM Bacoor
Cinema 3

SM Fairview
Cinema 3

BRIDGET JONES 2 MTRCB RATING: PG-13

SM Manila
Cinema 10

SM Megamall
Cinema 11

SM Sucat
Cinema 4

SM Bicutan
Cinema 1

GEORGE OF THE DRAGON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM Manila
Cinema 11

SM North Edsa
Cinema 2

SM Southmall
Cinema 6

SM Sta. Mesa
Cinema 3

NED KELLY SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM Fairview
Cinema 4

ONE MISSED CALL MTRCB RATING: R13

SM Manila
Cinema 8

SM Sta. Mesa
Cinema 6

SM Southmall
Cinema 10

SM Fairview
Cinema 1

Movies are subject to change without prior notice. For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2004

Filipino gospel film wins in NY film fest

"KANDUNGAN ng Langit," (Cradle of Heaven,) a Filipino gospel film written and directed by Gina Marissa Tagasa-Gil, won the award for best drama at the prestigious New York International Independent Film and Video Festival (NYIIFVF) held Nov. 12-21. At first screening, the film won the Fantastic Reviewers' Choice Award: Two Thumbs Up category. It was one of 300 films from all over the world that made it to the finals, and bested 70 other entries for best drama. The award will be given to Gina and Korean producer Jae Jung.

FILIPINO/3

"KANDUNGAN NG LANGIT," directed by Gina Marissa Tagasa-Gil

Show biz stands still

From page 1

The movie producer recalled on national TV how FPJ had once offered his services to her at the time when her film outfit Regal Films was not in good shape.

Out of body experience

But it was business as usual on GMA 7's "Sis," which devoted the whole show yesterday in recalling the songs and dance trends started by the Stateside pop group Village People and the local version it spawned, Hagibis. The local group's lone active member Sonny Parsons was among the guests, composed of Viva Hotmen and Mascalados, who were all made to dance and ape the moves of the originals.

Watching "Sis" seemed like an out-of-body experience in a time of mourning for the passing of a legend who loomed larger than life.

Sen. Bong Revilla spent Tuesday night at St. Luke's Medical Center. FPJ was a principal sponsor in the ac-

tor-senator's wedding to Lani Mercado.

In a statement he sent to INQUIRER Entertainment, Bong said, "It is really disheartening that in a season that we are supposedly exchanging cards and gifts, the nation mourns for the loss of a person who had been an inspiration to the Filipino masses, particularly to the oppressed and victims of social injustice."

"The death of movie icon Fernando Poe Jr. ... was construed as one big blow to the movie industry and to the national leadership as well. At a time when the film industry is groping for survival, the death of a person synonymous to the entertainment business was very much felt. He had contributed and dedicated every effort to save the industry from the brink of collapse."

Hero's promise

Bong, an action star himself, described FPJ as an "epitome of a hero ... someone who liberated and defended the masses from the forces of evil and someone who crushed despotism perpetrated by the seemingly indestructible human rights violators."

With FPJ's death, the hope of the movie industry people who have depended on him for survival during this downturn in show biz seemed to have also died.

A longtime movie extra who had always run to FPJ for financial help said the actor's death is the end for him, too.

"Baka pupulutin na lang ako sa kangkungan (I might just end up in the trash)," said the bit player, who claimed FPJ had promised to give him a small sum to bankroll a small business.

FPJ was in the process of developing a teleserye on his father's life, which would have aired next year. The actor was supposed to direct the teleserye and star in it.

'What's in store for the dead?'

From page 1

man of the industry. He differs from others because his sensitivity is people-oriented. Let's face it, the orientation in the film industry is still feudalistic where producers are king and the rest are just workers or the equivalent of the serfs. FPJ doesn't belong to that category. He's the first to raise hell if you so much as down-

grade the small workers."

Actor-baritone Gemaluel Viray, who played lawyer or governor in many FPJ films, said if FPJ caught anyone shouting or cursing the crew members for no reason at all, that person was in trouble, because FPJ himself treated superstars and bit players and plain extras alike.

Viray also confided that FPJ was hooked on opera music.

While singing on the set of an FPJ film in preparation for an opera role, Viray at one time was interrupted by FPJ who asked him, "Is that the opera where they sing this melody," and forthwith Da King proceeded to hum a familiar melody from the Libiamo duet of the opera "La Traviata."

"Yes," answered a surprised Viray.

Voice lessons

Then FPJ told the baritone his little known secret. "Did you know that I took voice lessons from bass baritone Jose Mossesgeld Santiago-Font upon the prodding of my father?"

If you're not familiar with the name, Santiago-Font was the first and last Filipino to sing at Italy's famous opera house La Scala di Milan, in 1928.

After that cover story came out, FPJ sent me a telegram saying he enjoyed reading it and that he was particularly moved by a portion talking about the afterlife.

We met again a year later in the launching of Ricky Lo's book and FPJ signed the page where his photo appeared and gamely posed with me for a photograph.

As music writer on the side, I regret not exploring FPJ's fascination with opera and how his voice lessons prospered. Would he have been a singer if he did not become king of Philippine movies?

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANGHAI CINAPLEX
Telephone: 833.2277 / 833.7851 loc. 171

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE INCREDIBLES

1 10:30	NATIONAL TREASURE
2 2:00	BRIDGET JONES
3 3:30	SPIDERMAN 2
4 7:30	SHREK 2

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Manitoba) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 10:30	PA-SIYAM
2 2:00	CHRISTMAS WITH A KRANKS
3 3:00	POLAR EXPRESS
4 4:00-4:30	2046
5 10:00-10:30	BIRTH
6 10:00-10:30	NATIONAL TREASURE
7 10:00-10:30	ALEXANDER
8 10:00-10:30	BCUZ OF U
9 10:00-10:30	SEED OF CHUCKY
10 10:00-10:30	NET JAMES

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Bataan City) tel 887.4963 or 72

1 10:30	SPIDERMAN 2
2 2:00	BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
3 3:00	THE INCREDIBLES
4 4:00	SHREK 2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Laneta Center
Animal Cineplex
Tel. 911-5101 loc. 8242 / 8261 / 8397

3 (Dolby)	ALEXANDER
4 (SDDS)	HAROLD & KUMAR
5 (DTS)	BAO SANTA
6 (Dolby)	HONEY
7 (Dolby)	BCUZ OF U

st rmall
www.clicktheatry.com.ph (Manila) tel 724.4966

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	SANTA SANTITA
4	NED KELLY
5	SALAT SA LIGAYA

METROPOLIS
www.clicktheatry.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	HELLWOLF
2	SALAT SA LIGAYA
3	NET JAMES
4	SANTA SANTITA
5 10:00	NED KELLY
6	BAO SANTA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Calabcan) tel 364.3781

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4 10:00	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 10:00	RESERVE
7 10:00	RESERVE
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SEED OF CHUCKY
2	PASIYAM
3	SALAT

Berna Cinema
(Bacaram) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	SALAT
2	SEED OF CHUCKY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 10:00	GINGER SNAP
2	NET JAMES
3	SKY CAPTAIN
4 10:00	SALAT

st rmall
www.clicktheatry.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7807

1 10:00	POLAR EXPRESS
2	SANTA SANTITA

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE

THE BUNNYGUARDS

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY MANILA

SM MEGAMALL

MTRCB Rating: G

SM Cinema envisions Washington's scandal of the century. Through his connections in the underworld and for a huge amount of money, a lobbying publisher succeeds in getting his hands on a tape with a recording of a secret and intense conversation between the President and his wife. However, just prior to the big press conference, the revealing tape is accidentally exchanged with his daughter Rina's Japanese lessons tape who, unbeknownst, flies with the audience in her husband's March. As soon as her father realizes what has happened, he tries to get the best bodyguards money can buy to protect her. However, thanks to the efforts of the German Secret Service and the CIA, both of which are eager to get their hands on the tape, Rina ends up with the two biggest goals in town: Ethan and Stefan.

Catch The Bunnyguards only here at SM Cinemas! Watch how Ethan and Stefan get to be James for a day! See the action, witnessable movies, critics are raving about only here at SM Cinemas!

Filipino gospel...

From page 2

Jang of White Windows Film Productions during ceremonies in New York on Dec. 17.

Gina calls it a "miracle movie."

"We had a small budget, we shot it in three days, we had no name actors or actresses, 80 percent of the cast had no experience in acting," she says. "We just put them through a one-day workshop."

"I expected that when they saw it was a religious film, they would just stand up and leave. But they branded it 'extraordinary,' and some members of the audience, some of them Filipinos, were weeping."

The film is based on the true story of Liway (not her real name), a victim of leprosy treated as an outcast by her family after they discover her disease. Initially she is filled with bitterness, but she has a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and learns to forgive.

"Actually, we are all lepers, eaten up inside by sin," Gina says, describing the core message of the film. "Inner healing, transformation, and the triumph of love can only come through Jesus Christ. That is such an important message in our world filled with hatred and anger."

The "700 Club Asia" TV program replays an interview with Gina and a trailer of her winning movie on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 8 a.m., on Studio 23, and on Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 4 p.m. on Zoe TV 11. The episode is hosted by Peter Kaituz and Chat Silayan-Baylon.

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE
MANILA

EASTERN	CLOSED
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKO AY BABA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KALAWAN / LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KIKAY / PERO MASAYUT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	HANGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
B	CLOSED
C	CLOSED

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1 & 2	POLAR EXPRESS / ANG W. KINGS / BRIDGET JONES / GEORGE & THE DRAGON
PREMIERE THEATRE	NATIONAL TREASURE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5481 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	2046
CINEMA-2	SALAT
CINEMA-3	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HONEY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HAROLD & KUMAR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (DTS)	BAD SANTA
CINEMA-12	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-14	1 MISSED CALL
CINEMA-15	8 CUZ OF U

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAYUT

ME CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	BOUNCE / SUPPLANT
CINEMA-1	BENG SHIP
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	REVENGE / HANGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY

UNIWI COASTAL MALL

(PARANAGUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAYUT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELOA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk & Eastwood City
8, Eastwood City, Eastwood City, Eastwood City

A BLAST FROM THE PAST
Eastwood Cinema features the best of 2004

687-6953
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SOLD OUT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SPIDERMAN 2
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30
GP

BRIDGET JONES DIARY 2
10:30, 12:50, 3:20, 5:40, 8:20, 10:50
PG-13

THE INCREDIBLES
11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
GP

SHREK 2
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
GP

starmall
CINEMA
Tel. No. 726.6150

3 Santa Santita
4 Ned Kelly
5 Salat sa Ligaya

METROPOLIS
ALABANO
Tel. No. 850.42.85

1 Bad Santa
2 Salat sa Ligaya
3 Honey
4 Santa Santita
5 Ned Kelly
6 National Treasure

starmall
CINEMA
Tel. No. 873.50.04

1 Polar Express
2 Santa Santita

Everyday Family Day!
@ Metropolis Cinema
Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981440-41

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRAVINS
GP
1:20, 3:35, 9:50
POLAR EXPRESS - GP
3:20, 7:35

NATIONAL TREASURE
GP
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

BRIDGET JONES
PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

HAROLD AND KUMAR
R13
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

SHARK TALE
GP
12:30, 5:00, 9:30
INCREDIBLES
GP
2:30, 7:00

BAD SANTA
1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. P80.00 MON-FRI.

THEATRE-MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

1 BAD SANTA
11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
P13

2 HAROLD & KUMAR
12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 8:55
R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 NATIONAL TREASURE
FS 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM
LMF 10:00PM (GP)

2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON)
FS 11:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, LMF 9:45PM (PG-13)

3 SPIDERMAN 2
FS 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM, LMF 9:30PM (GP)

4 SHREK 2
FS 12:10PM, 2:30PM, 4:50PM, 7:10PM, LMF 9:30PM (GP)

THE INCREDIBLES (GP)
FS 12:30AM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM, LMF 9:30PM

Regular Ticket Prices:
Cinema 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)

Enjoy our Screen Specials
Pay 20% less on Matinee Shows except on selected blockbuster movies
From Monday to Friday - Matinee Shows before 4 p.m.
For more details, please see film listing at the Shang Cineplex ticket booth or call 633-2227 or 633-7851 local 171.
Promo Period December 1-24, 2004 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-841, Series of 2004

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA

832-9116/16

1 ALEXANDER - THX 11:30 3:00 6:30 10:00	6 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
2 HAROLD AND KUMAR 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	7 SHREK 2
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON	8 HONEY 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
4 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:00	9 BAD SANTA
5 BIRTH 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 NED KELLY 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:40 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	5 RESERVE
2 BAD SANTA	6 HONEY 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30 10:00	7 HAROLD AND KUMAR 10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 9:50
4 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	

METRO EAST

682-8193/99 • 682-8280

1 SEED OF CHUCKY	5 BAD SANTA
2 ALEXANDER	6 NATIONAL TREASURE
3 SHREK 2 11:50 1:45 3:40 BRIDGET JONES 2 3:55 6:25 9:00	7 HONEY
4 HAROLD AND KUMAR	8 2046

NOVALICHES

635-3229/31

1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15	5 THE INCREDIBLES 11:00 1:10 ONE MISSED CALL 3:30 5:50 8:30
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	6 SHREK 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 6:50 8:30
3 BIRTH 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:30 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30 2046 4:35 6:50 9:00	8 NANG NAK 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55

rewind

SHREK is BACK!!!

Join Shrek, Princess Fiona and their friends on their magical journey to Far Far Away...again!

at
Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

galleria-metro-east-novaliches-cainta-imus

PIONEER 687-5378

1 ALEXANDER	3 BAD SANTA
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 BIRTH
Citisquare MALABON 200-0985 / 2575	
1 BCUZ OF U 11:10 1:30 3:50 8:30	3 ALEXANDER 11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:15 3:40 6:05 8:30	4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:40 1:55 4:00 6:15 8:30
CAINTA 240-4861	
1 ALEXANDER	3 HONEY
2 NATIONAL TREASURE	4 SHREK 2

BRIDGET JONES

NOW ON ITS 3RD WEEK!

in
Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

galleria-metro-east-lipa-and-bacolod

Where
you
find
the
best.



VISIT US AT
www.jobstarkatonline.com

Armenia Center

NOW OPEN!

Gateway Cinema

1 HAROLD & KUMAR
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

2 NATIONAL TREASURE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

3 BAD SANTA
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

4 BRIDGET JONES
1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 9:55

Opens soon!
CINEMAS 5,6,7,8,9 & 10

EXPERIENCE MOVIE-GOING LIKE NO OTHER

Gateway Cinema

LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL

ALI MALL CINEMAS

3 ALEXANDER
12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30

4 HAROLD & KUMAR
11:45 2:50 4:15 6:30 8:45

5 BAD SANTA
11:45 2:50 4:15 6:30 8:45

6 HONEY
12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 8:55

7 BCUZ OF U
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40

PARANAGUE COLISEUM

Dec. 25 DISNEY ON ICE 1pm/4:30pm/8pm
Dec. 26 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm
Dec. 27 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm
Dec. 28 DISNEY ON ICE 6pm
Dec. 29 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm
Dec. 30 DISNEY ON ICE 2pm/6pm

ENTERTAINMENT Metro

Text us your feedback: inquirer.ent.name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'Aviator' sidetracked by 'Sideways'

By Ruben Y. Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—"Sideways," a brilliant, funny adaptation of Rex Pickett's novel about two middle-aged male friends, sidetracked "The Aviator," Martin Scorsese's biopic on Howard Hughes, by capturing seven nominations for the Golden Globe Awards, which will be given next month.

In early morning ceremonies Monday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Lorenzo Soria, president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), which votes on the Golden Globes, and actors Brendan Fraser, Mira Sorvino and Drea De Matteo, announced that the indie film "Sideways" won nominations for best motion picture, musical or comedy; best actor, musical or comedy (Paul Giamatti); best supporting actress (Virginia Madsen); best supporting actor (Thomas Haden Church); best director (Alexander Payne); best screenplay (Payne and Jim Taylor), and best original score (Rolf Kent).

The buddy film set in Southern California's wine country has already been picked as the year's best by several critics groups, including those from Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Boston.

Jamie Foxx earned not one but three acting nods in his first time to be nominated for the Golden Globes. The three nominations honoring a single actor was also a first in the 62-year history of the awards given by the group of Hollywood journalists.

3 birthday gifts

Foxx made news with his acclaimed performances, including his portrayal of Ray Charles in "Ray" (best actor, musical or comedy), "Collateral" (best supporting actor) and "Redemption" (best actor in a mini-series or a motion picture for television).

In a statement given to the INQUIRER, Foxx, who turned 37 on Monday, said, "What a great way to start the day with three birthday gifts from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. I am honored to be mentioned in the same categories with such tremendously talented actors."

"The Aviator" got six nominations, including best motion picture, drama; best actor, drama (Leonardo DiCaprio); best supporting actress (a dazzling Cate Blanchett as Katherine Hepburn); and best director (Scorsese).

Six film nominations, instead of the customary five, in the drama category reflected a tight race. The other best motion picture, drama nominees are "Closer," "Finding Neverland," "Million Dollar Baby," "Kinsey" and "Hotel Rwanda."

"Closer," Mike Nichols' adaptation of Patrick Marber's play, saw two of its supporting actors, Natalie Portman and Clive Owen, win nominations while its leads, Julia Roberts and Jude Law received none.

Eastwood's faith

"Finding Neverland," a free interpretation on the life of J.M. Barrie and how he came to write "Peter Pan," landed a best actor, drama nomination for Johnny Depp, who was last year's Golden Globe best actor in a musical or comedy for "Pirates of the Caribbean."

Clint Eastwood reportedly believed in his "Million Dollar Baby" so much that he pushed for his latest directorial "baby" to be released late this year, instead of next year, so it comes out in time for the awards season.

Eastwood's faith in his female boxing drama paid off with five nominations, including two for him as best director and for best original score, and citations for Hilary Swank for best actress in a drama and Morgan Freeman for best supporting actor.

Swank, like Foxx, must have gotten a nice wake-up call. Her name was mentioned twice in the early morning announcement, the second one as a nominee for best actress in a mini-series or a motion picture for TV for "Iron Jawed Angels."

"Kinsey" clearly benefited from the strong performances of Liam Neeson as the sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, and Laura Linney as his wife in a highly unconventional relationship, resulting in their nomination for best actor in a drama and best supporting actress.

"Hotel Rwanda," about the efforts of Paul Rusesabagina, played by Don Cheadle, who netted a best actor in a drama nod, to save hundreds of Rwanda's citizens from the horrors of a civil war in 1994, rounded out the best drama nominees.

'The Incredibles'

Competing against "Sideways" in the best motion picture, musical or comedy, are "Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera," the much-awaited film version of the popular musical, the excellent animated film "The Incredibles," "Ray" and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," from the brilliant scriptwriting mind of Charlie Kaufman, who cinched a best screenplay nomination.

"Eternal" also bagged nominations for its leads, Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet.

Winslet's rivals for the best actress in a musical or comedy trophy are Annette Bening



"SIDEWAYS," with Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church



HFPA president Lorenzo Soria



HFPA vice president Elmar Biehl



CHAMPAGNE flowed at 6 a.m., following the announcement of nominations

HFPA PHOTOS BY JANET R. NEPALES

("Being Julia"), Emmy Rossum, the 18-year-old who landed the plum Christine role in "The Phantom," awards favorite Renee Zellweger ("Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason"), and a surprise, Ashley Judd, for her role as Cole Porter's wife in the musical "De-Lovely."

Judd's leading man, Kevin Kline, also pulled a surprise by landing in the fight for best actor in a musical or comedy. Kline's competitors, aside from Carrey, Foxx and Giamatti, include Kevin Spacey for his faithful portrayal of '60s singer Bobby Darin in "Beyond the Sea" which the actor himself directed.

In the drama category, Imelda Staunton—whose performance as a 1950s London abortionist has been topping film critics' best actress lists—leads the race against Swank and Nicole Kidman, who was brilliantly understated as a woman confronted by a boy claiming to be her dead husband in "Birth."

No Uma, Scarlett

Some awards prognosticators failed to predict the inclusion of Uma Thurman in "Kill Bill Vol. 2" and last year's twice-nominated Scarlett Johansson for the John Travolta starrer, "A Love Song for Bobby Long."

In supporting roles, Blanchett, Linney, Madsen and Portman have to contend with Meryl Streep, a perennial nominee and frequent winner who won her raves this year as the ambitious politician and mother in the remake of "The Manchurian Candidate."

Best supporting actor nominees Foxx, Freeman, Owen and Haden Church face off against David Caradine, for his role in the acclaimed "Kill Bill Vol. 2."

Javier Bardem, who won the best actor honors at the Berlin Film Festival and the recent European Film Awards, that continent's equivalent of the Oscars, for his portrayal of a Spaniard who was paralyzed and spent 30 years fighting the courts so he can die with dignity, completes the best actor nominee circle of Depp, DiCaprio, Neeson and Cheadle.

Good roles for men

Appearing one after another in several major films this year, Jude Law failed to make 2004 as his year in the awards derby. Also left out in the right actor races are Cruise ("Collateral"), Eastwood ("Million Dollar Baby"), Travolta ("A Love Song"), Bill Murray ("The Life Aquatic"), Jeff Bridges ("The Door in the Floor"), Kevin Bacon ("The Woodsman"), Sean Penn ("The Assassination of Richard Nixon"), Liev Schreiber ("The Manchurian Candidate") and Colin Farrell ("A Home at the End of the World").

The long list reflects a year of good roles for men. It was not a banner year for actresses. Elmar Biehl, HFPA vice president, told INQUIRER Entertainment, "It's a strange phenomenon that despite the fact that in recent years, there were so many strong women roles, this year the women were almost relegated back to the supporting roles. And yet there was a lot of good male roles. Had it not been for strong performances by actresses in international films, it would have been hard to vote for best actress nominees, especially considering that unlike the Oscars, we have two categories for best actress, for drama and musical or comedy. That makes it harder to find enough roles for women to celebrate."

Earlier generating buzz as likely nominees but their names were not called Monday morning are two foreign actresses, Colombia's Catalina Sandino Moreno in the well-reviewed "Maria Full of Grace" and France's Audrey Tautou in "A Very Long Engagement."

None for 'The Passion'

Also not earning any nominations was the controversial blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ," directed by Mel Gibson, which was deemed eligible for best foreign language film nomination, not for best motion picture, drama, since the Golden Globe rules allowed on-

years, the HFPA awards are seen as precursors of the Oscar awards. Golden Globe best picture winners have gone on to win the Oscar best picture awards in 10 of the last 11 years.

"Many people say that we are a trendsetter," said HFPA president Soria. "All we do is try to exercise our best judgment and to vote for the films that each of us thinks are deserving. We do not try to influence anyone. If anybody thinks that what we do is relevant, we are flattered."

This year is an open race, unlike last year when "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" was a clear heavy favorite to sweep the awards.

"It doesn't look like there is a clear winner this year," Soria added to INQUIRER Entertainment. "So Jan. 16 (the awards show date) will offer surprises."

HBO dominates

In the TV categories, HBO dominated the nomination field as usual, with four each for "The Sopranos" and the TV movie "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers."

ABC followed with nine nominations, including three nods for actresses Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman and Marcia Cross in the series, "Desperate Housewives."

Drea de Matteo, who helped announce the nominees, had the pleasure of hearing her name as a nominee for best supporting actress in a series, mini-series or motion picture for TV. The regular on "The Sopranos" is pitted against last year's Golden Globe best actress in a drama, Charlize Theron ("The Life and Death"), Anjelica Huston ("Iron Jawed Angels"), Emily Watson ("The Life and Death") and Nicollette Sheridan ("Desperate Housewives").

In an earlier announcement, Robin Williams, an 11-time Golden Globe Award nominee and five-time winner, has been selected to receive the HFPA's highest honor, the Cecil B. DeMille Award for his outstanding contribution to entertainment. Previous recipients have included Clint Eastwood, whose daughter Kathryn Eastwood is this year's Miss Golden Globe (she's the first daughter of a Cecil B. DeMille awardee to hold the title), Audrey Hepburn, Laurence Olivier, Al Pacino, Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Paul Newman and Sidney Poitier.

After the announcement, broadcast live on national TV in the US, journalists, publicists and media crews, some of whom had been at the grand ballroom of the Beverly Hilton since midnight, staggered out at 6 a.m. to an anteroom where waiters in elegant uniforms were offering glasses of champagne.

'Sopranos'

HBO received 20 nominations, more than twice as many as any other TV network this year.

"The Life and Death of Peter Sellers" led all HBO Original Movies, and all original movies of any network, with four nominations, while "The Sopranos" led all HBO series with four nominations.

The nominations for "The Life and Death" include best mini-series or motion picture made for TV, best performance by an actor in a mini-series or a motion picture made for TV (Geoffrey Rush), and two for best performance by an actress in a supporting role (Charlize Theron, Emily Watson).

The nominations for "The Sopranos" include best TV series, drama, best performance by an actress, drama (Edie Falco), best performance by an actress in a supporting role in a series, mini-series or motion picture made for TV (Drea de Matteo), and best performance by an actor in a supporting role (Michael Imperioli).

The other HBO nominations are three for "Iron Jawed Angels," two "Dead Wood," two for "Entourage," two for "Sex and the City," two for "Something the Lord Made," and one for "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

The author is a member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.



"THE AVIATOR" with Leonardo DiCaprio

ly films in English to vie for best picture.

The film was eligible in all other categories.

Another much-talked about film, Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11," was earlier declared ineligible for a best picture nomination since documentaries are not qualified in that category. A special award proposed by a member for Moore for his "influence in reinvigorating the documentary genre" did not get the majority of votes that it needed to pass.

Also not cited were James Brooks' heavily buzzed Oscar favorite "Spanglish" and the hit "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban."

In the best foreign language film race, France ran away with two nominations for "The Chorus" and "A Very Long Engagement." The other three finalists were China's "House of Flying Daggers," Brazil's "The Motorcycle Diaries" and Spain's "The Sea Inside."

The Philippine entry was "Crying Ladies," the Mark Melly comedy-drama produced by Unilel Pictures which garnered good reviews in the US press.

No clear winner

Among the wildly diverse nominees for best original song are "Old Habits Die Hard" (from "Alfie") by Rolling Stone legend Mick Jagger and former Eurythmics bandman David Stewart, and "Learn to Be Lonely" (from "The Phantom") by Webber and Charles Hart, which was sung by actress Minnie Driver.

The stakes are high to earn Golden Globe nominations and awards because over the



ANNOUNCING the nominees are Drea De Matteo, Brendan Fraser and Mira Sorvino, with Soria